

## **LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **Subsidy Scheme for Installation of Automatic Identification System on Local Passenger Vessels**

#### **Purpose**

This paper sets out the details of the subsidy scheme for installation of Automatic Identification System (AIS) on local passenger vessels.

#### **Background**

At the adjournment debate of the Legislative Council's sitting on 18 October 2012, the Secretary for Transport and Housing proposed ten measures to enhance the safety of local passenger vessels, one of which was to study the feasibility of requiring local vessels to install an AIS. To prevent the recurrence of similar vessel collision incidents, the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Collision of Vessels near Lamma Island on 1 October 2012 recommended that all vessels permitted to carry more than 100 passengers should be equipped with AIS.

2. The proposal of requiring local vessels to install AIS, radar and Very High Frequency radiotelephone was endorsed by this Committee at its meeting on 25 April 2014.

#### **Details of the Subsidy Scheme for Installation of AIS**

##### Application Period

3. From 1 November 2014 to 31 January 2016 (both dates inclusive).

##### Eligibility Criteria

4. Any vessel owner or his agent may apply for subsidy from the Marine Department (MD) if his vessel fulfills the following criteria (eligible vessel) –

- (a) Class I vessel licensed by MD to carry more than 100 passengers;
- (b) the vessel is not certificated as a “floating restaurant” or “stationary vessel”;
- (c) the vessel is not subject to any restrictions of any licence or permit that it may only ply within typhoon shelters;
- (d) the vessel is not subject to any conditions of any licence or permit requiring the installation of AIS onboard; and
- (e) the vessel has been equipped with a shipborne AIS (Class A) that employs Self-Organising Time Division Multiple Access (SOTDMA) and complies with the International Telecommunication Union’s recommendations on technical specifications as stated in Annex 2 to ITU-R M.1371 (qualified AIS) on the date of application.

#### Subsidy Limit

5. Each eligible vessel will be provided with full subsidy for the installation of qualified AIS (i.e. covering both the equipment cost and installation fee of qualified AIS on board) on an accountable basis, subject to a ceiling of \$26,700.

#### Application Arrangement

6. The applicant should provide copies of the following supporting documents together with the application form –

- (a) receipts of procurement and installation of AIS on board;
- (b) statement or certificate issued by the supplier or installer of AIS for the confirmation of installation of AIS on board; and
- (c) statement or certificate issued by the manufacturer, supplier or installer of AIS to confirm that the AIS installed on vessel is in compliance with the technical specifications of qualified AIS.

7. The vessel owner or his agent may apply to MD three working days before the immediate next scheduled survey or audit check. MD staff will inspect if the vessel is equipped with qualified AIS during the immediate next survey or audit check conducted after three working days upon receipt of the application. For application made less than three working days before the immediate next survey or audit check, MD may defer the inspection until another survey or audit check thereafter. Disbursement of subsidy will only be made to the applicant by MD when it is to the satisfaction of MD staff after the inspection that the installation of qualified AIS is in full compliance with the conditions of the subsidy scheme.

### Undertaking

8. The applicant shall undertake upon receipt of the subsidy that the qualified AIS onboard shall not be removed without good cause and that the qualified AIS shall be maintained in operation onboard. The applicant is also required to maintain and repair the qualified AIS onboard and inform MD when it becomes unserviceable.

### **Way Forward**

9. The application form and guidance notes of the subsidy scheme will be uploaded to the web site of MD shortly.

10. Details of the subsidy for the installation of radar on local passenger vessels and the installation of AIS on local cargo vessels will be announced in due course.

**Marine Department**  
**October 2014**