

**Information Paper**

**LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Implementation Date for the Provision of Radiotelephony on board  
Certain PVs**

**Purpose**

This information paper informs Members of the implementation date of the VHF radiotelephone requirements for certain Class IV vessels. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

**Background**

2. In 2020, the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (General) Regulation (Cap.548F) and the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Safety and Survey) Regulation (Cap.548G) were amended to impose the requirements that the following Class IV vessels must have on board radiotelephone equipment for VHF radiotelephone communication that is capable of operation on specified VHF channels and a certificated radiotelephone operator must be present on board the vessel at all times when it is underway:

- (i) A Class IV vessel that is licensed to carry 13 to 60 passengers and is let for hire or reward; and
- (ii) A Class IV vessel that is licensed to carry more than 60 passengers

**Commencement of the new requirements**

3. The legislation amendments were enacted in 2020. In order to provide adequate time for the industry to carry out preparation work, such as acquiring of equipment, taking training course and examination for obtaining radio operator licence, and etc., the requirements related to VHF radiotelephone will come into operation on a day to be appointed by the Secretary for Transport and Housing by notice published in the Gazette. For details of the requirements, please refer to sections 33E to 33I of Cap.548F and section 80B of Cap.548G.

4. MD had informed the industry about the above requirement in 2020. Meanwhile, MD has been closely monitoring the progress of course attendance and examination result so as to determine the earliest feasible implementation

date with a pragmatic approach.

5. With active participation by Class IV vessel operators, and thanks to the great efforts from Small Craft Workers Union and OFCA, majority of operators have completed training course and obtained radiotelephony certificate through examination. With this satisfactory progress, and as supported by the trade during previous consultations, MD will make arrangement to implement the new requirement on 1 January 2022.

6. Members are invited to note the implementation date of the VHF radiotelephone requirement for certain Class IV vessels on 1 January 2022.

**Marine Department  
June 2021**