

LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Implementation Dates of Legislative Amendments relating to the Installation of Automatic Identification System, Radar and Very High Frequency Radiotelephone on Local Vessels

Purpose

Members are invited to note this information paper which sets out the commencement dates of the captioned legislative amendments.

Details

2. At its meeting on 25 April 2014, the Local Vessels Advisory Committee (“LVAC”) endorsed the proposal of requiring local vessels to install automatic identification system (“AIS”), radar and very high frequency radiotelephone (“VHF radio”)¹. Members indicated that the relevant legislative amendments should come into operation when a sufficient number of crew in the trade have undergone the necessary training or obtained the relevant qualifications for operating the relevant equipment.

3. The Government will introduce the proposed legislative amendments into the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) for negative vetting on 14 December 2016. The Marine Department (“MD”) has assessed the latest situation with respect to the training of crew in the use and operation of the relevant equipment. Subject to negative vetting, the commencement dates of the various provisions are as set out below.

Provisions	Commencement Dates
(i) Installation and operational requirements of AIS for Class I vessels	1 April 2017
(ii) Installation and operational requirements of AIS for Class II vessels ²	1 March 2018

¹ For details, please see paragraphs 3 to 8 of the minutes of the 15th LVAC meeting (http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/aboutus/pdf/lvac_m140425.pdf).

² MD has earlier set out vide paragraph 7 of LVAC Paper No. 3/2014 (http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/aboutus/pdf/lvacp03_14.pdf) extending the requirement of installing AIS to the following types of Class II vessels: (a) Class II vessels with propulsion and of 300 gross tonnage or above; and (b) Class II vessels used for carrying dangerous goods (with or without propulsion), i.e. dangerous goods carriers, noxious liquid substance carriers and oil carriers.

(iii) Installation and operational requirements of radar for Class I vessels	1 December 2017
(iv) Installation and operational requirements of VHF radio for Class I vessels	To be appointed by the Secretary for Transport and Housing by notice in the Gazette

Subsidy Schemes

4. The subsidy scheme for the installation of radar on Class I vessels and that for the installation of AIS on Class II vessels were launched in January 2016 and December 2016 respectively. The application periods for the two schemes will end in March 2017 and February 2018 respectively³. MD encourages eligible applicants to make full use of these subsidy schemes when installing the relevant equipment.

Way Forward

5. The proposed legislative amendments will be introduced into LegCo for negative vetting on 14 December 2016. Members are invited to note the commencement dates as set out in paragraph 3 above for information.

Task Force on Reform
Marine Department
6 December 2016
(Updated on 22 December 2016)

³ For details, please see LVAC Papers No. 16/2015 (http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/aboutus/pdf/lvacp16_15.pdf) and No. 14/2016 (http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/aboutus/pdf/lvacp14_16.pdf).