

LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fine-tuning Survey Arrangements for Local Vessels

Purpose

Members are invited to note this paper which sets out the Marine Department (“MD”)’s review of survey arrangements and the fine-tuned measures for local vessels.

Background

2. MD has actively commissioned competent surveyors to conduct plan approval and survey of vessels, which enables staff members of the Local Vessels Safety Section (“LVSS”) to better perform their duties of supervising ship safety in addition to surveying, e.g. performing unscheduled random inspection of vessels and monitoring the service quality of competent surveyors.

3. Although MD has already commissioned a considerable number of competent surveyors to provide services for the trade, the attendance rate of the LVSS survey staff exceeds 3,000 times per annum as a result of the substantial increase of local vessels in recent years. In order to maintain highly efficient survey services, the LVSS reviewed the existing survey arrangements and is going to enhance the current mode of operation to step up efficiency.

Enhanced Measures

4. In order to provide LVSS survey services in a more efficient manner, MD will launch the following enhanced measures on a pilot basis:

(I) Adding a designated survey location

- Generally speaking, LVSS staff conduct ship surveys at eight survey locations designated by MD¹. Information indicated that more than half of such surveys were conducted at the designated survey locations, where concentrated and highly

¹ Please visit MD website for particulars of the existing survey arrangements at:

https://www.mardep.gov.hk/hk/pub_services/ocean/lvs_survey3.html

effective services can be provided from the perspective of MD. In order to encourage shipowners to arrange surveys of their vessels at the designated survey locations as far as practicable, and to avoid any unsuccessful applications for survey owing to full booking of the designated survey locations on working days, MD will increase the application quotas for survey at the designated survey locations, while the opening hours and ways of reservation for such locations remain unchanged. Furthermore, MD will add a new designated survey location at Tsing Yi (North) as set out in **Annex 1**.

(II) Introducing a transportation launch to provide additional marine traffic for surveys in offshore areas

- At present, most designated survey locations are located at areas accessible by roads or public transport. MD is now hiring a transportation launch to carry the survey staff to onboard surveys, as the specified survey location in Aberdeen is not situated by the shore. Furthermore, survey staff will also be required to conduct surveys in offshore and relatively remote areas other than the designated survey locations, where time is spent on awaiting connecting transport. In view of the above, MD will make arrangements for adding one more transportation launch so as to carry the survey staff to conduct onboard surveys more quickly for more efficient services.
- Given the limited service areas covered by one of the transportation launches, MD will publish on its website a scheduled route with service areas of the transportation launch to facilitate shipowners making reservations for survey according to schedules. If the scheduled route of the transportation launch overlaps the designated survey locations, survey staff will simultaneously entertain applications for survey at a designated survey location and those within the same zone. Please refer to **Annex 2** for particulars of the scheduled route of the transportation launch and its service areas.

(III) Streaming survey services

- Any application for survey to be conducted in the territory must be lodged in advance by 4 pm of the last working day before the survey date. Usually the LVSS can satisfy all demands from the shipowners. Apart from surveys at the designated survey

locations, the LVSS also accepts shipowners' applications for survey to be conducted at areas other than the designated survey locations, which take longer travelling time and are hard to have concentrated services achieved. To enhance efficiency, MD will exercise streaming of survey services. The existing approach is maintained for surveys or slip inspections of vessels at the designated survey locations, i.e. the LVSS will immediately confirm any applications lodged by 4 pm of the last working day before the survey date, except for the circumstances of full booking. Streaming will be made for other surveys, including surveys and re-inspections conducted at areas other than the designated survey locations, in accordance with the risk of vessel (with priority given to higher risk vessels) and the degree of urgency (for licences expired or about to expire). The LVSS will collect all applications for survey for consolidated handling as far as practicable, and will reply to shipowners about the confirmed survey arrangements as soon as possible.

Way forward

5. Members are invited to note the enhanced measures in this paper which are expected to be implemented by late 2019, and their effectiveness will be reviewed from time to time for further improvements.

Local Vessels Safety Branch
Marine Department
October 2019

Annex 1

New Specified Survey Locations

Zone	Survey Location	Schedule (no service on public holidays)	Tel.	Fax	Remarks
1	New Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter	Monday to Friday	2388 0101	2782 0412	The eight specified survey locations, their service hours and ways of reservation remain unchanged
2	Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter	Every Tuesday and Thursday	2873 8366	2554 4346	
3	Shaukeiwan Typhoon Shelter	1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month	2560 1474	2567 9779	
4	Cheung Chau Typhoon Shelter	2nd & 4th Tuesday of every month	2981 9885	2981 5300	
5	Sai Kung (off Sai Kung Hoi Pong Street)	1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month	2792 1212	2792 7820	
6	Tai Po (off Sam Mun Tsai Marine Office)	2nd Wednesday of every month	2667 6939	2667 6952	
7	Tuen Mun Kadoorie Pier	2nd & 4th Friday of every month	2451 9456	2542 5747	
8	Sha Tau Kok Pier at Yim Liu Ha	3rd Friday of every three months	2667 6939	2667 6952	
9	Tsing Yi (North)	Monday to Friday	2852 4444	2542 4679	New specified survey location

**Scheduled Route and Service Areas
for the New Transportation Launch**

Zone	Areas covered (see diagram)	Schedule (no service on public holidays)	Tel.	Fax
1	Tuen Mun, Tung Chung	2nd and 4th Friday of every month	2852 4444	2542 4679
2	Outlying Islands (including Cheung Chau Typhoon Shelter, Hei Ling Chau Typhoon Shelter, Kau Yi Chau)	2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month		
3	Tsuen Wan Dangerous Goods Anchorage, Tsing Yi, Ma Wan	Every Thursday		
4	Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter and its waters	Every Monday and Wednesday		
5	To Kwa Wan Typhoon Shelter, Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter	Every Wednesday		
6	Shaueiwan Typhoon Shelter, Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter	1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month		
7	Hong Kong Island South, Lamma Island, Middle Island, Tai Tam, the waters off Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter	1st and 3rd Friday of every month		
8	Sai Kung	1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month		

Distribution of Marine Survey Zones

