

LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Proposal on Optional Installation of a Sea-Connection Fish-Hold on Fishing Sampans

Purpose

This paper aims to seek members' endorsement of the Marine Department ('MD')'s proposal regarding the optional installation of a sea-connection fish-hold on fishing sampans.

Background

2. At its 18th meeting on 18 August 2015, the Local Vessels Advisory Committee ('LVAC') endorsed the proposed amendments to paragraph 1.3(b) in Chapter III B of the current Code of Practice – Safety Standards for Class I, II and III Vessels¹ concerning the requirement for hull reserved buoyancy in which a fishing sampan should have one or several buoyancy tank(s) with the volume sufficient to support the lightship weight of the vessel and to maintain its minimum freeboard.² In view of the operation pattern of fishing sampans, the industry nonetheless hoped that the installation of a sea connection fish-hold (commonly known as "live fish-hold") could be permitted for these vessels to keep fish hauls fresh and alive.

Proposal

3. In light of the above views of the industry, MD has conducted a simulated projection. Under the premises of ensuring adequate vessel stability without compromising vessel safety, MD proposes that fish-holds may be installed on fishing sampans subject to the following conditions:

- (a) each fishing sampan may install only one live fish-hold (which can be sub-divided into left, centre and right compartment) with a length not exceeding 10% of the vessel length;
- (b) the bulkhead of the live fish-hold shall be of watertight construction

¹ http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub_services/ocean/pdf/lvs_cop123.pdf

² The draft minutes of the meeting were sent to members on 29 October 2015 for comment and would be uploaded to MD's website subsequent to the endorsement of the 19th LVAC meeting. For details of Paper No. 10/2015 - Reserved Buoyancy Requirement for Fishing Sampans, see http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/aboutus/pdf/lvacp10_15.pdf.

to prevent leakage of water into other compartments on board;

- (c) the built-in buoyancy tank is sufficient to support the lightship weight of the vessel after the live fish-hold is connected to the sea (see Paper No. 10/2015 ‘Reserved Buoyancy Requirement for Fishing Sampans’³), and the requirement for the minimum freeboard mentioned in paragraph 2 shall be met in all probable loading conditions; and
- (d) the live fish-hold shall be located in front of the steering seat and near the midship, whereas the aft bulkhead shall not be situated before the midship.

The above conditions for installation of the “live fish-hold” are applicable to all existing and new fishing sampans. Vessel owners applying for the installation of the live fish-hold shall submit calculation data of the buoyancy tank and the minimum freeboard to MD or authorised surveyors commissioned by vessel owners for approval (Note: for vessels approved and examined by authorised surveyors, the relevant plans and calculation data shall be submitted to MD for examination under the current mechanism.) Applications for installation of the live fish-hold by fishing sampans failing to comply with any of the above conditions shall be made to MD on a case-by-case basis.

LVAC Sub-committee on Class III Vessels

4. The LVAC Sub-committee on Class III Vessels was consulted on the proposal by paper circulation⁴ on 19 November 2015. No adverse comment was received by MD during the consultation period.

Way Forward

5. Subject to members’ views, MD will amend the Code of Practice for implementation of the proposal.

Local Vessels Safety Branch
Shipping Division
Marine Department
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³ http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/aboutus/pdf/lvacp10_15.pdf

⁴ See Paper No. 2/2015 Proposal on Optional Installation of a Sea-Connection Fish-Hold on Fishing Sampans (Chinese version only) at http://www.mardep.gov.hk/hk/aboutus/pdf/lvac_sc3_p2_15c.pdf