

LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Amendments to Requirements on Awnings on Fishing Sampans

Purpose

This paper aims to seek members' endorsement of the Marine Department ('MD')'s proposal to extend, as appropriate, the permissible length of an awning installed on a fishing sampan from no more than half of the overall length of the vessel to up to 70% of the overall length of the vessel, subject to its compliance with revised conditions.

Background

2. The Local Vessels Advisory Committee ('LVAC') endorsed MD's proposal on the installation of awnings on Class III fishing sampans at its meeting on 10 October 2014.¹ MD subsequently amended paragraph 1.5 in Chapter V of the Code of Practice – Safety Standards for Class I, II and III Vessels² as follows:

If an awning is installed on a fishing sampan, the awning –

- (a) shall be of a length no more than half of the overall length of the vessel;
- (b) shall be of a height no less than 1.6 metres above the main deck;
- (c) shall be detachable; and
- (d) whose installation plan shall be submitted to MD for approval before installation.

3. The industry has recently voiced the concern that since a fishing sampan in general can carry six or more crew members, an awning of only half the overall length of the vessel falls short of the work area required to be covered. As such, they hope that the permissible length of the awning can be extended as appropriate so that the crew working aboard can be sheltered from the sun and rain.

¹ See para. 20 of the minutes of the meeting at http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/aboutus/pdf/lvac_m141010.pdf and para. 4 of Paper No. 14/2014 at http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/aboutus/pdf/lvacp14_14.pdf

² See http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub_services/ocean/pdf/lvs_cop123.pdf

Proposal

4. A vessel awning, being an on-board structure, affects the stability of a vessel in that it increases the overall weight, the height of the centre of gravity and the windage area of the vessel. Having considered the actual situation and calculations done, MD is of the view that the permissible length of an awning can be extended to the maximum of 70% of the overall length of the vessel on which it is installed, but the height of the awning has to be lowered and the data on stability has to be submitted to MD or an authorised surveyor for consideration. Hence, MD proposes amending the aforementioned paragraph 1.5 in Chapter V of the Code of Practice as follows:

If an awning is installed on a fishing sampan,

- (a) the awning shall be of a length no more than 70% of the overall length of the vessel;
- (b) the awning shall be in the form of a canopy (i.e. open on all sides beneath and unenclosed to minimise the windage area) and of a height no more than 1.6 metres above the main deck;
- (c) the awning shall be detachable; and
- (d) the installation plan shall be submitted to MD for approval before installation. If the awning is of a length between 50% and 70% of the overall length of the vessel, the data pertaining to the stability on the impact of windage on the vessel (including related information such as lines diagrams of the vessel) shall be submitted to MD or the authorised surveyor commissioned by the shipowner for approval. (Note: Under the current mechanism, a vessel with its plans approved and survey conducted by an authorised surveyor is still required to submit its plans and information on calculation etc. to MD for random checking.)

LVAC Sub-committee on Class III Vessels

5. The LVAC Sub-committee on Class III Vessels was consulted on the proposal by paper circulation³ on 19 November 2015. No adverse comment was received by MD during the consultation period.

³ See Paper No. 3/2015 “Amendments to Requirements on Awnings on Fishing Sampans” at http://www.mardep.gov.hk/hk/aboutus/pdf/lvac_sc3_p3_15c.pdf (Chinese only).

Way Forward

6. Subject to Members' views, MD will amend the Code of Practice concerned for implementation of the proposal.

Local Vessels Safety Branch
Shipping Division
Marine Department
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