

LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Partition and Amendment of the Codes of Practice for Safety Standards for Class I to IV Vessels

Purpose

This paper sets out the Marine Department (MD)'s proposed amendments to the Code of Practice – Safety Standards for Class I, II and III Vessels¹ and the Code of Practice – Safety Standards for Class IV Vessels² (collectively called “CoPs”).

Background

2. The above CoPs set out the safety standards for various classes of local vessels, including passenger carrying vessels, other commercial vessels, fishing vessels and pleasure vessels. Owing to reasons such as the addition of supplementary information and lengthening of texts over the years, the industry has reflected that the CoPs have become inconvenient for users to read. Given that the Code of Practice – Safety Standards for Class IV Vessels is already a separate volume, MD proposes to partition the Code of Practice – Safety Standards for Class I, II and III Vessels into separate volumes according to vessel class for ease of reading. At the same time, the CoPs should be amended to incorporate the following:

- (a) amendments, additions and deletions to relevant laws;
- (b) proposals which have been endorsed by the Local Vessels Advisory Committee (LVAC) but have yet to be included in the CoPs;
- (c) Marine Department Notices (MDNs) on vessel safety issued by MD; and
- (d) revisions of ambiguous interpretations, obsolete requirements, etc. in the CoPs.

For ease of reference and discussion, the amended parts are summarised and listed in *Annexes 1(a) and (b)* while the drafts of the rewritten and amended Code of Practice – Safety Standards for Class I Vessels, Code of Practice – Safety Standards for Class II Vessels, Code of Practice – Safety Standards for Class III Vessels, and Code of Practice – Safety Standards for Class IV Vessels are set out in *Annex 2 (Updated in January 2017)*.

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

² http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub_services/ocean/pdf/lvs_cop4.pdf

Sub-committee on Survey Work of Local Vessels, Sub-committee on Class I Vessels, Sub-committee on Class II Vessels, Sub-committee on Class III Vessels and Sub-committee on Class IV Vessels

3. The above proposal of partitioning the Code of Practice – Safety Standards for Class I, II and III Vessels into separate volumes and rewriting the CoPs was endorsed by the Sub-committee on Survey Work of Local Vessels and the Sub-committee on Class III Vessels on 6 June 2016³ and 13 June 2016⁴ respectively. Upon completion of the drafting of the CoPs, MD held multiple sub-committee meetings to discuss the content. The sub-committees involved include the respective sub-committees on Class I, Class II, Class III and Class IV vessels as well as the Sub-committee on Survey Work of Local Vessels. After repeated discussions on the amendments of the CoPs, all the sub-committees agreed to submit the amended CoPs (*Annex 2*) to LVAC for deliberation and endorsement.

Way Forward

4. Subject to members' views, MD plans to put in effect the newly amended CoPs in the first quarter of 2017 by means of Gazette notices.

Advice Sought

5. Members are invited to comment on the above proposal and the amendments set out in the Annexes (including *Annexes 1(a) and (b)* and *Annex 2*).

Local Vessels Safety Section
Marine Department
December 2016
(Updated in January 2017)

³ See paragraphs 25 to 65 of the minutes of the meeting :
http://www.mardep.gov.hk/hk/aboutus/pdf/lvac_sc_survey_m160606c.pdf

⁴ See paragraphs 4 to 9 of the minutes of the meeting :
http://www.mardep.gov.hk/hk/aboutus/pdf/lvac_sc3_m160613c.pdf

Code of Practice - Safety Standards for Classes I, II, and III Vessels
Summary of Amendments

(Exclusive of amendments to paragraphing, clarifications of wordings, etc.)

The following amendments will come into effect upon their publication
in the Gazette notice

Relevant Code of Practice/Vessel Class	Section	Description of Amendments
I General		
I, II, III	1.3, 1.4	Add wordings to explain that in accordance with the legal status prescribed in the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Cap. 548), requirements set out in the relevant codes of practice shall be followed
I, II, III	Original 1.6~1.13	Delete extracts of provisions of relevant regulations under the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Cap. 548)
I, II, III	2.1	Add the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Garbage) Regulation (Cap. 413O) and the Merchant Shipping (Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships) Regulation (Cap. 413N)
I, II, III	3.1	Amend the definitions of “authorized organization” and “classification society”, and add the definitions of “extreme breadth”, “length overall”, “sister vessels”, “watertight”, “weathertight”, etc.
II	5	Revise the category of new work boats to Category A according to the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Safety and Survey) Regulation (Cap. 548G)
II Survey and Plan Approval		
I, II, III	1	Add the arrangements of survey and plan approval for renewal of licence by vessels which have been laid-up for over 2 and 8 years
II, III	2	Consolidate the delegated survey arrangements for vessels and the certificates required
I, II	2	Add the arrangements of plan approval and survey for high risk vessels undertaken by authorized organizations
II, III	3.2, 3.3	Elaborate on the validity of certificate for vessels with a survey interval of more than one year based on MDN 26/2007 ⁵

⁵ <http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/notices/pdf/mdn07026.pdf>

Relevant Code of Practice/Vessel Class	Section	Description of Amendments
I, II, III	4	Add the requirement regarding submission of plans for sister vessels in the light of MDN 170/2010 ⁶
I, II, III	Table 5-1, 7-1~3	Consolidate relevant requirements proposed by LVAC and promulgated in MDN(s) and existing practices, and amend the types of plans required to be submitted for approval and the survey items accordingly
II	7	Add “Guide on Periodical Survey Cycle for Class II Vessel” and include the interval of survey on slip for transportation sampans, crane barges, work boats, flat-top work barges and landing pontoons for passengers
II	Table 7-2	Amend the survey items for dangerous goods barges
I, II, III	Table 7-3	Add the arrangement for random checks on lifejackets during periodical surveys based on LVAC Paper No.19/2015 ⁷
III A Hull Construction (Category A Vessel)		
I, II, III	1.2	Add the requirement that structures above the main deck of new vessels shall be weathertight
I, II, III	7.3	Add the requirements on new vessels/engines with reference to the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution) Regulation (Cap. 413P)
I, II, III	10.2	Add specification requirements for fire dampers
I, II, III	15.5	Add inspection requirements for the construction of air receivers on new vessels
I, II, III	19.2(b)	Add the advice of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on sludge tank capacity as per LVAC Paper No. 12/2014 ⁸
II	19.2(n), (o)	Add the requirements on ship to ship operation and stability instrument for oil tankers in the light of new legislation
III B Hull Construction (Category B Vessel)		
I, III	Note (1)	Add the requirement that new wooden kaitos and GRP fishing sampans shall be built in a certified shipyard
IV Freeboard and Stability		
I	1.1	Scrap the 100-passenger demarcation in the calculation of damage stability for new Class I vessels
II	1.1	Add transportation boats and work boats to be subject to the requirements on intact stability calculation

⁶ <http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/notices/pdf/mdn10170.pdf>

⁷ http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/aboutus/pdf/lvacp19_15.pdf

⁸ http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/aboutus/pdf/lvacp12_14.pdf

Relevant Code of Practice/Vessel Class	Section	Description of Amendments
I	1.1	Add the requirement for new kaitos carrying over 12 but not more than 60 passengers to check damage stability
I	1.3	Amend the formulae for the following as per 2008 IS Code:
I, II, III	1.5	(a) the moment of crowding of passengers, high-speed turning moment and wind moment (b) equivalent stability criteria for vessels of special ratio due to their geometric characteristics
II	1.3 (i)	Amend the requirement on the intact stability for new floating docks, tugs, dredgers and crane barges so that the standards of classification societies shall be complied with instead
II	2.1	Add the requirement on the maximum allowable length of oil tanks for oil tankers as imposed by the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Oil Pollution) Regulations (Cap. 413A) in the light of LVAC Paper No. 12/2014 ⁸
I, III	3.2, 8.2	Add allowable deviations of changes in lightship displacement and LCG under dispensation of an inclining test
II	3.2, 9.2	
I, II (Cat. A)	6.2	Add stipulations on content required in the stability information booklet
III (Cat. A)	5.2	
II	11	Add the requirements on stability instrument for oil tankers as imposed by MARPOL Annex I in the light of LVAC Paper No. 12/2014 ⁸
V Passenger and Crew Accommodation		
I, II, III	Note (a), (b), (c)	Add the sections of this chapter which are applicable to the respective classes of vessels
I, II	2.1	Add the condition that bulwark or guardrails shall be installed near the periphery of weather decks if the area abaft rudder stock is used as passenger space
I, II	3.1 (c)	Specify the methods for determining the number of passengers to be carried on a Class I multi-purpose vessel and the maximum number of crew members to be carried on a Class II vessel
II, III	4, 5.1	Cut down on the detailed requirements for stairways, passageways, doors, exits and ventilation systems on Class II and III vessels
VI Fire Protection and Fire-fighting Apparatus		
I, II	1	Add the definitions of “accommodation spaces” and “control stations”
I, II, III	2	Add the hyperlink of the relevant legislation stipulating the requirements on fire-fighting

Relevant Code of Practice/Vessel Class	Section	Description of Amendments
		apparatus
II	2.3	Add the requirement for owners of barges operating within river trade limits to submit a declaration as per Table 5(1) in Schedule 4 of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Safety and Survey) Regulation (Cap. 548G)
I, II, III	5.1	Amend the maximum length of fire hoses from 18 m to 20 m
I, II, III	7	Add the requirement stating that where the fire-fighting apparatus provided on board is not of the type required by law, the owner, agent or coxswain of the vessel shall ensure that the apparatus is properly maintained in a good condition and fit for the function intended
I	10.1	Add the requirement for graphical symbols to be used for fire control plans
II	11.1	
I	11.2	Amend the requirement on the place for stowing non-portable fire extinguishers for use in the engine room
II	12.2	
III	10.2	
I	12.2.3	Elaborate the fire resistance requirements for the structure of engine rooms on new vessels constructed of reinforced glass fibre plastic and of wood
II	13.2.3	
III	11.2.3	
II	13.4.4	Add the detailed requirement for fire integrity of decks and bulkheads of new vessels with openings or penetrations
VII Life-saving Appliances and Arrangements		
III	1	For Class III vessels, add a part stating that the “Y” type liferaft recognised by the Bureau of Fishing Vessel Inspection of China can be used in lieu of the type of liferaft recognised by the IMO
II	2.1	Add provisions on the use of portable inflatable type liferafts
I, II	2.2	Add the method for determining the number of children lifejackets
II	2.2	Add the requirement for owners of barges operating within river trade limits to submit a declaration as per Table 4(4) in Schedule 3 of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Safety and Survey) Regulation (Cap. 548G)
I, II, III	10.3, 10.4	Add requirements about the place and method of storing lifejackets in the light of LVAC Paper No. 19/2015 ⁷

Relevant Code of Practice/Vessel Class	Section	Description of Amendments
VIII Lights, Shapes and Sound Signals		
I, II, III	1.3	Add the requirement stating that the navigation lights fitted on new vessels or the replacement navigation lights must be of the approved types and have serial numbers
I, II, III	4, 5	Amend the requirements for the types, numbers and positions of navigation lights, lights and sound signals by referring to the latest International Regulations for Preventing Collision at Sea
IX Tonnage Measurement		
I, II, III	2.5~2.7	Add the calculation method for the volumes of appendages
X Special Requirements for Vessels Carrying Dangerous Goods		
II	3.1	Revise the signal required to be flown by a vessel on which explosives are being handled by referring to the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (General) Regulation (Cap. 548F)
II	6.1	Amend the types and quantity of fire-fighting apparatus required to be provided on new dumb lighters carrying dangerous goods
II	6.1 Note (a)~(c)	List the classes of dangerous goods of which stowage under deck is prohibited under the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG Code)
XI High Speed Craft		
I, II	3	Revise the requirements for damage stability
XII Safe Operation and Operator Requirements		
I, II, III	2	Revise the sizes of the vessels applicable in accordance with the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Local Certificates of Competency) Rules
I	12	Revise the requirements for first aid kits originally stipulated in Annex I-6 and move them to this chapter
II	9	
Annex A Rules and Regulations for Classification of Vessels		
I, II, III	-	Update the rules and regulations applicable to classification societies
Annex C Spill Out Method		
II	-	Repeal this Annex. Dredgers shall meet the stability requirements of classification societies
Annex D Stability When Lifting		
II	2.2	Elaborate the condition of the vessel being inspected for its stability
Annex F Damage Stability Requirements for Launches, Ferry Vessels		

Relevant Code of Practice/Vessel Class	Section	Description of Amendments
I	Part 1(1)	Add the requirement for new launches and ferry vessels of the following description to meet the damage stability standard for two-compartment flooding: (a) a new vessel carrying more than 400 passengers; or (b) a vessel carrying non-fixed seat passengers plying outside Victoria Harbour
I	Part 2(6)(a)	Clarify the assumed extent of damage for one-compartment and two-compartment subdivision standards
I	Part 3 (9)	Add the criteria to be fulfilled in the case of asymmetrical flooding
Annex I-1 Visibility Requirement for Wheelhouse		
I, II, III	-	Update the content based on MDNs and international requirements
Annex I-2 Checklist for Engine Inspection		
I	-	Add the item “Engine Mark Code” to the part of the form for vessel particulars
Annex I-5C Requirements for Waiving Inclining Experiment after the Addition/Replacement of Engine(s)		
I, II, III	-	Extend the waiver to vessels with minor modification.
Annexes I-7, 7A-7G		
II	-	Delete the annexes. Incorporate the original content regarding the requirements for the survey and plan approval of Class II vessels into Chapter II
Annex I-8 Guidance Notes for Inspection of Landing Platforms		
II	-	Add the inspection requirements for landing pontoons
Annex I-9 Anti-fouling Paint with Tributyltin (“TBT”)		
I, II, III	-	Update the content based on legislation on anti-fouling paint on ships
Annex I-10 The Requirements of Annex VI of MARPOL 73/78		
I, II, III	-	Delete the original text and add the link to MDN 39/2016 ⁹ which contains the details of the new regulation
Annex K Survey Schedule for Medium Speed Engines (for the Extension of the Survey Interval from Two Years to Three Years)		
I	K-1	Add the definition of “medium speed engine”
I	K-2	Add the details regarding application for extension

⁹ <http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/notices/pdf/mdn16039.pdf>

Relevant Code of Practice/Vessel Class	Section	Description of Amendments
		of survey intervals for main engines, gear boxes, tail shafts, etc. of vessels carrying more than 60 passengers
Annex L Revised Regulations 13G and 13H of Annex I of MARPOL 73/78		
II	1, 2	Delete the original text and add the link to the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Oil Pollution) (Amendment) Regulation 2016 ¹⁰
Annex M Guidance on Technical Inspection of Machinery and Hull Items		
I, II, III	1.1	Add the corrosion limit of aluminium
I, II, III	3, 4	Amend some of the content based on actual conditions and standards of classification societies
III	Annexes N-1A, 1B	Delete the annexes. Refer to the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Safety and Survey) Regulation (Cap. 548G) for the original content
III	Annex N-1C	Delete the annex. Incorporate the original content into Annex A
III	Annexes N-2, 3, 5, 6A, 7A, 7B	Delete the annexes. Incorporate the original content regarding the requirements for the survey and plan approval of fishing vessels into Chapter II
III	Annex N-4A	Delete the annex. Incorporate the original content into Chapter II and IIIB
I, II, III	Annexes N-6B V1, V2, V3	Delete the annexes. Refer to the website of the Marine Department (MD) for the original content
I, II, III	Annexes R, S, T	Delete the annexes. Refer to the website of MD for the specifications of fire alarm systems, fire extinguishing systems and automatic sprinkler systems required by relevant regulations
I, II, III	Annex U-3	Delete the annex. Refer to the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Works) Regulation (Cap. 548I) for the original content
I, II, III	Annex U-4	Amend Table 1 based on the content of Chapter XII
I, II, III	Annex V-4	Delete the extract from the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Safety and Survey) Regulation (Cap. 548G)

¹⁰ <http://www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/pdf/20162016/es22016201647.pdf>

Code of Practice - Safety Standards for Class IV Vessels
Summary of Amendments

(Exclusive of amendments to paragraphing, clarifications of wordings, etc.)

The following amendments will come into effect upon their publication
in the Gazette notice

Relevant Code of Practice/Vessel Class	Section	Description of Amendments
I General		
IV	1.3, 1.4	Add wordings to explain that in accordance with the legal status prescribed in the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Cap. 548), requirements set out in this code of practice shall be followed
IV	Original 1.6~1.10	Delete extracts of provisions of relevant regulations under the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Cap. 548)
IV	2.1(12), (13)	Add the newly effective Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution By Garbage) Regulation (Cap. 413O) and Merchant Shipping (Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships) Regulation (Cap. 413N)
IV	3	Amend the definitions of “authorized organization” and “classification societies”, and clarify the definition of “extreme breadth”
IV IV	4.1	Re-write the text and table in this section, consolidating the content originally scattered in Ch. I/4.1, 4.3, 9.2, 12, Ch. III-A and III-B; and Add the arrangement for authorized organizations to undertake plan approval and surveys for Class IV vessels of more than 150 gross tonnage or with a carrying capacity of more than 60 passengers
III Hull, Machinery and Electrical Installations		
IV	3.17	Add inspection requirements for the construction of air receivers on new vessels
IV	6.3	Add the provision that naked fire is permitted to be used for cooking or similar activities inside a galley fitted with fire protected bulkheads
III-A Hull, Machinery and Electrical Installations		
IV	-	Delete this chapter. Move the original content to Chapter I/4.1
III-B Hull, Machinery and Electrical Installations		
IV	-	Delete this chapter. Move the original content to Chapter I/4.1
IV Passenger and Crew Accommodation		
IV	2.4(2)	Amend the word “and” to “or” in “at least 100 mm above the deepest loaded waterline <u>and</u>

Relevant Code of Practice/Vessel Class	Section	Description of Amendments
		fitted with flooding alarms” regarding the condition for carrying passengers on a sunken deck
IV	4.1(5)	Amend the original text “the forward part of the vessel up to the forward bulkhead of the deckhouse” to “where the look-out of the coxswain could be obstructed” in the list of spaces not permitted to carry passengers
IV	5	Add the requirement that inflatable boats shall meet the ISO standard
V Fire Protection		
IV	1.2.7	Add the requirement that portable fire extinguishers shall be periodically examined and subject to tests (See Annex 13A)
IV	3.1	Add the hyperlink of relevant legislation stipulating requirements on fire-fighting apparatus
VI Life-Saving Appliances and Arrangements		
IV	2.4, 2.5	Add requirements about the place and method for storing lifejackets in the light of LVAC Paper No. 19/2015 ⁷
IV	2.6	Add the recommendation that persons on board open cruisers should wear lifejackets at all times in the light of MDN 77/2013 ¹¹
IV	4.1	Add the hyperlink of relevant legislation stipulating requirements on life-saving appliances
VII Lights, Shapes and Sound Signals		
IV	1.3	Add the requirement stating that the navigation lights fitted on new vessels or the replacement navigation lights must be of the approved types and have serial numbers
IV	4, 5	Amend the requirements for the types, numbers and positions of navigation lights, lights and sound signals by referring to the latest International Regulations for Preventing Collision at Sea
Annex 1B Provisions in the Merchant Shipping (Certification and Licensing) Regulation (Cap. 548D) on Matters Relating to Certificates of Competency Required for Class IV Vessels		
IV	49	Delete the part about certificates for operators of dynamically supported craft
Annex 7 Implementation of the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution) Regulation (Cap. 413P)		
IV	-	Delete the original text and add updated content including the link to MDN 39/2016 ⁹ which is on MD’s website

¹¹ <http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/notices/pdf/mdn13077.pdf>

Relevant Code of Practice/Vessel Class	Section	Description of Amendments
	Annex 7A	Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution) Regulation (Cap. 413P) – Inspection Checklist for Local Vessels
IV	-	Amend the inspection details in accordance with the amended regulation on the prevention of air pollution
	Annex 8	Tonnage Measurement for Class IV Vessels
IV	2.5~2.7	Add the calculation method for the volumes of appendages
	Annex 10	Installation, Document and Certification for Prevention of Oil Pollution
IV	1(b)	Add the IMO's recommendation on the capacity of sludge tank in the light of LVAC Paper No. 12/2014 ⁸
	Annex 12	Additional Condition for Towing a Banana Boat or Similar Vessel
IV	-	Delete the original text and add updated content including the link to MDN 124/2007 ¹² which is on MD's website
	Annex 13A	Periodic Survey Programme for Class IV Vessels That Carry 60 Passengers or Less and Are Let for Hire or Reward and Are Issued with a Certificate of Inspection
IV	(I)(A)(b)	Add the requirements for the inspection of CO ₂ systems, sprinkler systems, portable fire extinguishers and CO ₂ bottles

¹² <http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/notices/pdf/mdn07124.pdf>

Code of Practice	Edition
Code of Practice - Safety Standards for Class I Vessels	(December 2016 draft) (Updated in January 2017)
Code of Practice - Safety Standards for Class II Vessels	(December 2016 draft) (Updated in January 2017)
Code of Practice - Safety Standards for Class III Vessels	(December 2016 draft) (Updated in January 2017)
Code of Practice - Safety Standards for Class IV Vessels	(December 2016 draft) (Updated in January 2017)