

LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Proposed Amendments to the Examination Rules – Navigation Simulation Assessment

Purpose

This paper sets out the proposed amendments to the Examination Rules for Local Certificates of Competency, the Examination Rules for Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificate of Competency, and the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Local Certificates of Competency) Rules. The amendments are proposed in the light of the introduction to the examinations for local certificates of competency a requirement to pass a navigation simulation assessment.

Background

2. At the 18th meeting of the Local Vessels Advisory Committee (LVAC) held on 18 August 2015, members discussed Paper No. 12/2015 “Navigation Simulation Assessment”. The meeting endorsed raising the professionalism and awareness of navigational safety of holders of the Coxswain Grade 1 Certificate in respect of local passenger carrying vessels and holders of the Pleasure Vessel Operator Grade 1 Certificate in respect of pleasure vessels let for hire or reward. The meeting also accepted the proposal, as stated in the paper, of requiring holders of the Coxswain Grade 2 Certificate to pass a navigation simulation assessment before being granted the Coxswain Grade 1 Certificate for operation of Class I vessels of more than 24 metres in length or 26.4 metres in length overall. For holders of the Pleasure Vessel Operator Grade 2 Certificate to be eligible for the Grade 1 Certificate to operate pleasure vessels let for hire or reward of more than 15 metres in length overall, they should also be required to pass a navigation simulation assessment in addition to the existing examination¹.

3. At the 21st LVAC meeting held on 30 December 2016, in view of the concerns raised by the industry over whether there would be an adequate provision of the navigation simulation assessment course, the meeting decided to treat 2017 as a transitional year, with the formal implementation of the requirement of a “navigation simulation assessment” postponed to January 2018².

¹ See the minutes of the 18th meeting of the LVAC held on 18 August 2015 – paragraph (vii) of (III). New Discussion Items. (http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/aboutus/pdf/lvac_m150818.pdf)

² See the minutes of the 21st meeting of the LVAC held on 30 December 2016 – paragraphs 28-32 (http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/aboutus/pdf/lvac_m161230.pdf)

Proposed Amendments

4. In order to raise the professionalism and awareness of navigational safety of holders of the Coxswain Grade 1 Certificate in respect of local passenger carrying vessels and holders of the Pleasure Vessel Operator Grade 1 Certificate in respect of pleasure vessels let for hire or reward, the Marine Department (MD) proposed to require candidates to pass a navigation simulation assessment before they would be granted a Coxswain Grade 1 Certificate or a Pleasure Vessel Operator Grade 1 Certificate. The proposal will be applicable to candidates applying for the certificates concerned on or after the effective date of the proposal.

5. The proposed amendments to the Examination Rules for Local Certificates of Competency, the Examination Rules for Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificate of Competency, and the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Local Certificates of Competency) Rules are set out in *Annex 1*, *Annex 2* and *Annex 3* respectively for reference.

6. For those who have yet to pass the navigation simulation assessment but meet other criteria for the issue of a Coxswain Grade 1 Certificate or a Pleasure Vessel Operator Grade 1 Certificate, their certificates of competency will have endorsements specifying the restrictions on the class and length of vessels they are allowed to operate. Holders of the certificates of competency can, upon passing the navigation simulation assessment, replace the certificates with ones without the restriction endorsements free of charge at MD.

Consultation

7. Members were consulted on the above proposal at the 18th, 20th, 21st and 24th LVAC meetings, and the Joint Subcommittee on Class I and Class IV Vessels under LVAC has discussed the proposal at its meetings. There was no objection to the proposal from members of LVAC and the Joint Subcommittee.

Implementation Schedule

8. MD intends to have the amendments gazetted in early January 2018 for immediate implementation of the new requirement.

Views Sought

9. Members are invited to give their views on the proposed amendments set out in paragraphs 4 to 6 above as well as those underlined and marked in blue in *Annex 1*, *Annex 2* and *Annex 3*.

Shipping Division
Marine Department
December 2017
(Updated on 29 December 2017)

**Proposed Amendments to the Examination Rules for
Local Certificates of Competency**

3.3 Coxswain Grade 1 Certificate

3.3.1 To be eligible for the issue of a Coxswain Grade 1 Certificate an applicant must:

- (1) be at least 20 years of age;
- (2) hold the following recognized course certificates issued by an approved training establishment:
 - (a) Personal Survival Techniques (Local Craft), or equivalent certificate
 - (b) Elementary First Aid and Proficiency in Medical First Aid (Combined), or equivalent certificate
 - (c) Fire Fighting (Local Craft), or equivalent certificate;
- (3) be able to prove a minimum of 1 year of service on board local vessels, other than pleasure vessels, in the position of Coxswain or Assistant Coxswain. This year of service must be obtained while holding a Coxswain Grade 2 Certificate or a 60 tons and under Master Certificate of Competency (see also paragraph 3.3.2) and at least six months of the time must be shown to have been spent in service aboard vessels greater than 15 m in length;
- (4) have already passed the Coxswain Grade 2 Examination described in paragraph 6.2 and paragraph 7.2 of these Rules; ~~and~~
- (5) reach the eyesight standard described in Chapter 4 of these Rules; ~~and~~;
- (6) pass a navigation simulation assessment. If he/she is not able to prove that he/she has passed the navigation simulation assessment, the certificate issued will have an endorsement specifying that “the holder of this certificate is not allowed to operate a Class I vessel of more than 24 m in length ~~and~~ or 26.4 m in length overall”.

- 3.3.2 The holder of a Local Certificate of Competency as Master (60 tons and under), or a Coxswain Grade 2 Certificate who has obtained his Grade 2 Certificate on the basis of previously holding a Local Certificate of Competency as Master (60 tons and under) or Fishing Vessel Master (without restriction or condition) will be eligible for a Coxswain Grade 1 Certificate if he meets the requirements specified in paragraphs 3.3.1(1), 3.3.1(2), 3.3.1(3) and 3.3.1(5) and passes Part A of the Coxswain Grade 2 Examination described in paragraph 6.2 and paragraph 7.2 of these Rules. He/She will not be required to be examined in the oral part of the examination. A failure in this examination will not affect his existing Coxswain Grade 2 Certificate, 60 tons and under Master certificate or Fishing Vessel Master Certificate.
- 3.3.3 The service experience in paragraph 3.3.1(3) above must have been performed within Hong Kong waters.
- 3.3.4 An applicant will also be eligible for the issue of a Coxswain Grade 1 Certificate if he meets the criteria specified in paragraphs 3.3.1(1) and 3.3.1(5) and holds the following certificates:
- (1) a Local Certificate of Competency as Master (300 tons and under) issued under the provisions of the Shipping and Port Control Ordinance (Cap. 313); or
 - (2) a certificate of competency as Trawling Master; or
 - (3) a valid Hong Kong seagoing or river trade Class 2 or Class 1 certificate of competency (Deck Officer) issued under the provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers)(Certification of Officers) Regulation (Cap. 478 sub. leg. J), or a recognized equivalent certificate of competency for deck officer issued by a foreign administration, and passes a local knowledge examination.

**Proposed Amendments to the Examination Rules for
Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificate of Competency**

3.2 Pleasure Vessel Operator Grade 1 Certificate

3.2.1 A candidate applying for the examination of Pleasure Vessel Operator Grade 1 Certificate must:

- (a) hold a valid Pleasure Vessel Operator Grade 2 Certificate or equivalent; ~~and~~
- (b) have obtained vessel operation experience as the person in charge of a powered pleasure vessel or a commercial vessel for at least 1 year after obtaining the certificate as stated in item (a) above.

3.2.2 To be eligible for the issue of a Pleasure Vessel Operator Grade 1 Certificate, the applicant must:

- (a) have passed the Pleasure Vessel Operator Grade 1 Examination, details of which are specified in paragraph 6.2.1 and paragraph 7.2.1 of these Rules, conducted by the Marine Department; or
- (b) have satisfactorily completed an approved training course and passed the approved practical test, details of which are set out in paragraph 6.2.2 and paragraph 7.2.3 of these Rules, conducted by the Hong Kong Sailing Federation (HKSF);
- (c) reach the eyesight standard prescribed in Chapter 4 of these Rules; ~~and~~;
- (d) pass a navigation simulation assessment. If he/she is not able to prove that he/she has passed the navigation simulation assessment, the certificate issued will have an endorsement specifying that “the holder of this certificate is not allowed to operate a Class IV vessel of more than 15 m in length overall which is for carrying passengers and is let for hire or reward”.

**Proposed Amendments to the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels)
(Local Certificates of Competency) Rules**

Make additions to the “Endorsements on Local Certificates of Competency” under Schedule 2 of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Local Certificates of Competency) Rules as follows:

Item	Local certificate of competency	Endorsements
1.	Coxswain Grade 1 Certificate	(a) The holder of this certificate is restricted to act as the coxswain of a government vessel.
		(b) The holder of this certificate may also act as the coxswain of (name, certificate of ownership number and gross tonnage of the vessel).
		(c) The holder of this certificate shall comply with the following conditions: (i) To have a physically fit person to assist the certificate holder to perform duties that cannot be physically carried out by the certificate holder; (ii) that person must be briefed by the certificate holder about the knowledge on emergency handling on board at the time the person first joins the vessel; (iii) evidence showing the agreement of that person to perform the duties and being briefed of emergency handling knowledge must be kept on board for inspection by authorized officer; and (iv) no fare paying passenger is allowed on board.
		(d) The holder of this certificate may also act as the engine operator of a Class III vessel fitted with petrol outboard engine(s) of aggregate power not more than 90 braked horse power (BHP).
		(e) <u>The holder of this certificate is not allowed to operate a Class I vessel of more than 24 m in length and or 26.4 m in length overall.</u>

Item	Local certificate of competency	Endorsements
7.	Pleasure Vessel Operator Grade 1 Certificate	(a) Valid for Day Time Only
		(b) The holder of this certificate shall comply with the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) To have a physically fit person to assist the certificate holder to perform duties that cannot be physically carried out by the certificate holder; (ii) that person must be briefed by the certificate holder about the knowledge on emergency handling on board at the time the person first joins the vessel; (iii) evidence showing the agreement of that person to perform the duties and being briefed of emergency handling knowledge, must be kept on board for inspection by authorized officer; and (iv) no fare paying passenger is allowed on board.
		(c) the holder of this certificate is not allowed to operate a water scooter or jet ski or act as the coxswain of a water scooter or jet ski.
		(d) When operating any pleasure vessel, the certificate holder is required to operate the vessel with another person who is a holder of a former certificate known as Pleasure Vessel Engineer Grade I, or Grade II, of any engine type, or equivalent.
		(e) <u>The holder of this certificate is not allowed to operate a Class IV vessel of more than 15 m in length overall which is for carrying passengers and is let for hire or reward.</u>