

LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Authorization of the Institute of Professional Education And Knowledge to conduct Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificate of Competency Examinations

Purpose

This paper is to consult members on the Marine Department's ("MD") proposal to authorize the Institute of Professional Education And Knowledge ("PEAK"), member of Vocational Training Council (VTC) Group, to conduct Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificate of Competency Grade 2 ("PVOC2") Examinations. Tentatively, the arrangement will be implemented in Q2/2023.

Background

2. Under the present arrangement, PVOC2 examination candidates may apply for the examinations at MD counters, by post or through the online system. Examinations are conducted at MD's Headquarters' examination hall with 29 computer booths. Due to limited number of computer booths, each examination session can only accommodate a maximum of 29 candidates.

3. The candidate must take both Part A (navigation, seamanship and safety) and Part B (engineering knowledge) together on the first attempt of PVOC2 examination and the examination fee is HKD1,255. For each Part A and Part B, there are 45 minutes to answer 40 questions and the candidate needs to correctly answer at least 60% of the questions in each part, i.e., 24 questions, to get a pass result for PVOC2 Certificate of Competency ("COC").

4. If a candidate has passed either Part A or Part B, he is allowed to retake the remaining part and the examination Fee is HK\$ 660. COC would be issued to the candidate who has passed both Part A & Part B within two years without additional charge.

5. Currently, there are more than ten thousand PVOC2 examination attendants each year, and candidates usually have to wait for 3 to 6 months to secure available examination time slots during first application. To improve

the efficiency, productivity, and quality of services provided to the public, MD deems it necessary to authorize PEAK to conduct the PVOC2 examinations. The arrangement can provide more sessions, seats and flexible examination times to candidates participating in the examination

Information of PEAK

6. PEAK is a member of VTC Group with over 20 years of experience in conducting professional and qualifying examinations for different authorities, professional bodies and corporations (including, Insurance Intermediaries Qualifying Examination, Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Examination, Estate Agents/Salespersons Qualifying Examination, etc.). PEAK serves more than 160,000 examinees annually.

7. PEAK could provide 7 computerized examination rooms located at VTC Tower in Wanchai with each room having a capacity to accommodate from 31 to 47 candidates for highly secured computer-based examinations. So, PEAK is capable to provide more seats for the examinations. In addition, some of the examination sessions can be arranged in evenings or weekends, giving more options for the candidates to take the examination in their spare time.

Examination Arrangement

8. PVOC2 examinations will be conducted at PEAK under the supervision of MD. MD will be responsible for the compilation, revision and provision of examination questions. The formats and contents of the examinations will remain consistent as the present ones conducted in MD.

9. Candidates may apply to PEAK for the PVOC2 examination by post or via the Online Registration System. Candidates who have passed the examination may apply for a COC in person, by email, by post to MD or apply through MD online system. Due to adequate examination seats will be available after the implementation of the new arrangement, we expect that waiting time during first application could be reduced from 3 to 6 months to less than one month. Also, a candidate will not need to wait for 28 days to retake the examination for failed part. The examination fee will be HK\$ 550 for each part. Upon passing both parts, the candidates could apply to MD for PVOC2 COC, with a certification fee of HK\$ 220.

Implementation Timeline

10. MD aims to complete all system development, tests, rehearsal and review by Q1/2023, and to officially implement the new arrangement in Q2/2023. After official implementation, all PVOC2 examinations will be conducted at PEAK, and MD will only conducted examinations for those who have already successfully applied for taking examinations at MD prior to the implementation date.

Consultation

11. The above proposal has been endorsed by the Sub-committee on Class IV Vessels in December 2022. The proposal is now submitted to the Local Vessel Advisory Committee for discussion.

Way Forward

12. Members are invited to comment. Subject to comment received, MD will authorize PEAK to conduct PVOC2 examinations in Q2/2023, and will amend the Examination Rules for Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificate of Competency (Rules) accordingly. The amended Rules the exact implementation date will be gazetted and posted on MD's website accordingly in advance. For enquiries, please contact Mr. K.C. Yu of the River Trade and Local Examination Section at telephone: 2852 4368 or email: ssrtl@mardep.gov.hk

Marine Department

Local Vessels and Examination Division

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