

LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Issue of Codes of Practice
under Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Cap 548)**

Background

The issue of Code of Practice serves to provide practical guidance and standards for the purposes and requirements of the new legislation and to implement the recommendations of the Local Craft Review report issued in 1989. The production of these Codes of Practice are in fact years of joint efforts and inputs by the relevant industry sectors / professionals and the Department.

Issue of Codes of Practice

2. Enclosed as listed below are two sets of Codes of Practice in English and Chinese versions that will be issued under section 8 of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance, Cap 548) (“LVO”) :-

- (1) [Code of Practice – Safety Standards for Class I, II and III Vessels \(December 2006 Edition\)](#)
- (2) [Code of Practice – Safety Standards for Class IV Vessels \(December 2006 Edition\)](#)

3. The contents of these Codes have been widely consulted and commented/endorsed by members of PLVAC or its Sub-Committees or Working Groups at previous meetings or circulations to ensure their practicability and acceptability in practice. These final versions as now presented have been fine-tuned or given some editorial or style changes to align with the terms or meanings expressed in the final version of the new legislation, i.e. the LVO.

4. Although these Codes in their first edition may not be perfect, we are much confident that they would be at least reasonably practicable as most of the requirements prescribed in these Codes are already in current practice or otherwise the industry sectors have been informed. Beside, the new legislation allow us for making continuous improvement or amendments in future if found necessary after their being brought into practice.

5. The final versions of these Codes, with any amendments or not, served as practical guidance for the industry will be approved and issued by the Director of Marine under relevant section of LVO and with notice to be published in the gazette for them to take effect on the commencement date of the new legislation.

Advice Sought

6. Should you have (or perhaps not have any) some comments on them, please let us know in writing as soon as possible and preferably at least one day before the meeting, so that they could be printed and tabled for discussion at the meeting.

7. This submission is to bring to your attention and support.

Local Vessels Safety Section

Marine Department

8 December 2006