

LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Proposed Amendments to the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels)
(Local Certificates of Competency) Rules and
Examination Rules for Local Certificates of Competency
— Addition of the Endorsement**

Purpose

This paper seeks members' views and endorsement on the proposed additions to Schedule 2 "Endorsements on Local Certificates of Competency" of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Local certificates of Competency) Rules¹ ("the Rules") and "Examination Rules for Local Certificates of Competency" ("the Examination Rules").

Background

2. According to the requirements on minimum safe manning of the Code of practice, coxswain, engine operator and crew members working onboard oil carriers and gas carriers should hold relevant oil carrier and gas carrier safety training certificates respectively. Currently, the concerned person shall carry with him in the oil/ gas carrier the relevant safety training certificate and shall, on request by an authorized officer, produce it for inspection. Furthermore, to achieve the target of decarbonization, and reduce the air pollution by lowering the emission of CO, CO₂, hydrocarbons and NO_x, the use of alternative fuels² in local vessel's machinery and propulsion system will be more and more in the future. Adequate training for service on the local vessel which using alternative fuels to the operator is required.

3. Since the implementation of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Cap. 548) effective from 2007, all endorsements made on Local Certificates of Competency should be pursuant to Schedule 2 of the Rules prescribed by the Director.

Proposed Amendments

4. To safeguard maritime safety and enhance our services, MD will make rules providing for the requirements to be satisfied for granting of the relevant endorsement. A person has successfully completed the approved training or

¹ <https://www.mardep.gov.hk/filemanager/en/share/pub-services/pdf/cocrules.pdf>

² American Bureau of Shipping has introduced an 'Alternative Fuel Ready' approach. The alternative fuel includes LNG, LPG, hydrogen, ammonia, methanol, ethane, biofuels and other gases or low-flashpoint fuels.

holding a relevant certificate of proficiency recognized by the Director may apply to MD for the issue of an endorsement on the local certificate of competency.

5. The proposed addition of the endorsements on Coxswain, Engine Operator and Pleasure Vessel Operator to Schedule 2 of the Rules and the Examination Rules are tabulated at Annex 1 and Annex 2, respectively.

Advice Sought

6. Members are invited to give their views and endorse on the proposed amendments.

Local Vessels and Examination Division
Marine Department
July 2024

**MERCHANT SHIPPING (LOCAL VESSELS)
(LOCAL CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY) RULES**

In Part 1 section 2 –

Insert new definitions in alphabetical order

“alternative fuels” includes LNG, LPG, hydrogen, ammonia, methanol, ethane, biofuels and other gases or low-flashpoint fuels.

“chemical carrier” means any vessel constructed or adapted and used for the carriage in bulk of any liquid product listed in chapter 17 of the IBC Code;

“gas carrier” means a cargo ship constructed or adapted and used for the carriage in bulk of any liquefied gas or other products listed in the table of chapter 19 of the 2014 IGC Code;

“oil carrier” means a motor tanker, or a dumb barge, constructed or adapted for the carriage in bulk of liquid cargoes of a flammable nature (including sludge oil);

**SCHEDULE 2 of the MERCHANT SHIPPING (LOCAL VESSELS)
(LOCAL CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY) RULES**

ENDORSEMENTS ON LOCAL CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY

Item	Local certificate of competency	Endorsements
1.	Coxswain Grade 1 Certificate	The holder of this certificate has satisfied the training (Basic) requirements may operate oil carrier in accordance with the restrictions of this certificate.
	Coxswain Grade 2 Certificate	This endorsement is valid until xx.xx.xxxx.
2.	Coxswain Grade 3 Certificate	The holder of this certificate has satisfied the training (Advanced) requirements may operate oil carrier in accordance with the restrictions of this certificate.
		This endorsement is valid until xx.xx.xxxx.
3.	Engine Operator Grade 1 Certificate	The holder of this certificate has satisfied the training (Basic) requirements may operate chemical carrier in accordance with the restrictions of this certificate.
		This endorsement is valid until xx.xx.xxxx.
4.	Engine Operator Grade 2 Certificate	The holder of this certificate has satisfied the training (Advanced) requirements may operate chemical carrier in accordance with the restrictions of this certificate.
	Engine Operator	This endorsement is valid until

	Grade 3 Certificate	xx.xx.xxxx.
5.		The holder of this certificate has satisfied the training (Basic) requirements may operate gas carrier in accordance with the restrictions of this certificate. This endorsement is valid until xx.xx.xxxx.
6.		The holder of this certificate has satisfied the training (Advanced) requirements may operate gas carrier in accordance with the restrictions of this certificate. This endorsement is valid until xx.xx.xxxx.
7.		The holder of this certificate has satisfied the training (Basic) requirements may operate vessels using alternative fuels in accordance with the restrictions of this certificate. This endorsement is valid until xx.xx.xxxx.
8.		The holder of this certificate has satisfied the training (Advanced) requirements may operate vessels using alternative fuels in accordance with the restrictions of this certificate. This endorsement is valid until xx.xx.xxxx.
9.	Pleasure Vessel Operator Grade 1 Certificate	The holder of this certificate has satisfied the training (Basic) requirements may operate pleasure vessels using alternative fuels in accordance with the restrictions of this certificate. This endorsement is valid until xx.xx.xxxx.
10.	Pleasure Vessel Operator Grade 2 Certificate	The holder of this certificate has satisfied the training (Advanced) requirements may operate pleasure vessels using alternative fuels in accordance with the restrictions of this certificate. This endorsement is valid until xx.xx.xxxx.

**Proposed Amendments to “Examination Rules
for Local Certificates of Competency” and “Examination Rules
for Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificate of Competency”**

Examination Rules for Local Certificates of Competency

In section 1.3 of Chapter 1 –

Insert new definitions in alphabetical order

“alternative fuels” includes LNG, LPG, hydrogen, ammonia, methanol, ethane, biofuels and other gases or low-flashpoint fuels.

“chemical carrier” means any vessel constructed or adapted and used for the carriage in bulk of any liquid product listed in chapter 17 of the IBC Code;

“gas carrier” means a cargo ship constructed or adapted and used for the carriage in bulk of any liquefied gas or other products listed in the table of chapter 19 of the 2014 IGC Code;

“oil carrier” means a motor tanker, or a dumb barge, constructed or adapted for the carriage in bulk of liquid cargoes of a flammable nature (including sludge oil);

After Chapter 2, section 2.12—

Add new paragraphs 2.13, 2.14 and 2.15

“2.13 Endorsement in training for oil carrier cargo operations

2.13.1 Crewmember assigned specific duties and responsibilities related to cargo or cargo equipment on oil carriers shall hold an endorsement in training (Basic) for oil carrier cargo operations.

2.13.2 Any crewmember with immediate responsibility for loading, discharging, care in transit, handling of cargo, tank cleaning or other cargo-related operations on oil carriers shall hold an endorsement in training (Advanced) for oil carrier cargo operations.

2.13.3 For endorsement in training (Basic) for oil carrier cargo operations, the applicant has successfully completed the approval training (Basic) course for oil carrier cargo operations; or hold a certificate of proficiency recognized by the Director.

2.13.4 For endorsement in training (Advanced) for oil carrier cargo operations, the applicant has successfully completed the approval training (Advanced) course

for oil carrier cargo operations and has at least one month of approved onboard training on oil carriers, which includes at least three loading and three unloading operations; or hold a certificate of proficiency recognized by the Director.

2.14 Endorsement in training for chemical carrier cargo operations

2.14.1 Crewmember assigned specific duties and responsibilities related to cargo or cargo equipment on chemical carriers shall hold an endorsement in training (Basic) for chemical carrier cargo operations.

2.14.2 Any crewmember with immediate responsibility for loading, discharging, care in transit, handling of cargo, tank cleaning or other cargo-related operations on chemical carriers shall hold an endorsement in training (Advanced) for chemical carrier cargo operations.

2.14.3 For endorsement in training (Basic) for chemical carrier cargo operations, the applicant has successfully completed the approval training (Basic) course for chemical carrier cargo operations; or hold a certificate of proficiency recognized by the Director.

2.14.4 For endorsement in training (Advanced) for chemical carrier cargo operations, the applicant has successfully completed the approval training (Advanced) course for chemical carrier cargo operations and has at least one month of approved onboard training on chemical carriers, which includes at least three loading and three unloading operations; or hold a certificate of proficiency recognized by the Director.

2.15 Endorsement in training for gas carrier cargo operations

2.15.1 Crewmember assigned specific duties and responsibilities related to cargo or cargo equipment on gas carriers shall hold an endorsement in training (Basic) for gas carrier cargo operations.

2.15.2 Any crewmember with immediate responsibility for loading, discharging, care in transit, handling of cargo, tank cleaning or other cargo-related operations on gas carriers shall hold an endorsement in training (Advanced) for gas carrier cargo operations.

2.15.3 For endorsement in training (Basic) for gas carrier cargo operations, the applicant has successfully completed the approval training (Basic) course for gas carrier cargo operations; or hold a certificate of proficiency recognized by

the Director.

2.15.4 For endorsement in training (Advanced) for gas carrier cargo operations, the applicant has successfully completed the approval training (Advanced) course for gas carrier cargo operations and has at least one month of approved onboard training on gas carriers, which includes at least three loading and three unloading operations; or hold a certificate of proficiency recognized by the Director.

2.16 Endorsement in training for service on vessels using alternative fuels

2.16.1 Crewmember responsible for designated safety duties associated with the care, use or in emergency response to the fuel on board vessels using alternative fuels shall hold an endorsement in training (Basic) for vessels using alternative fuels.

2.16.2 Any crewmember with immediate responsibility for the care and use of fuels and fuel systems on vessels using alternative fuels shall hold an endorsement in training (Advanced) for vessels using alternative fuels.

2.16.3 For endorsement in training (Basic) for vessels using alternative fuels, the applicant has successfully completed the approval training (Basic) course for vessels using alternative fuels; or hold a certificate of proficiency recognized by the Director.

2.16.4 For endorsement in training (Advanced) for vessels using alternative fuels, the applicant has successfully completed the approval training (Advanced) course for vessels using alternative fuels and has at least one month of approved onboard training on vessels using alternative fuels, which includes a minimum of three bunkering operations on board vessels using alternative fuels; or hold a certificate of proficiency recognized by the Director.”

Examination Rules for Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificate of Competency

In section 1.3 of Chapter 1 –

Insert new definitions in alphabetical order

“alternative fuels” includes LNG, LPG, hydrogen, ammonia, methanol, ethane, biofuels and other gases or low-flashpoint fuels.

After Chapter 2, section 2.3 —

Add new paragraph 2.4

“2.4 Endorsement in training for service on vessels using alternative fuels

- 2.4.1 Crewmember responsible for designated safety duties associated with the care, use or in emergency response to the fuel on board vessels using alternative fuels shall hold an endorsement in training (Basic) for vessels using alternative fuels.
- 2.4.2 Any crewmember with immediate responsibility for the care and use of fuels and fuel systems on vessels using alternative fuels shall hold an endorsement in training (Advanced) for vessels using alternative fuels.
- 2.4.3 For endorsement in training (Basic) for vessels using alternative fuels, the applicant has successfully completed the approval training (Basic) course for vessels using alternative fuels; or hold a certificate of proficiency recognized by the Director.
- 2.4.4 For endorsement in training (Advanced) for vessels using alternative fuels, the applicant has successfully completed the approval training (Advanced) course for vessels using alternative fuels and has at least one month of approved onboard training on vessels using alternative fuels, which includes a minimum of three bunkering operations on board vessels using alternative fuels; or hold a certificate of proficiency recognized by the Director.”