

Local Vessels Advisory Committee

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

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to seek members' views on allowing people holding "Hong Kong and Macau Travel Permit" to sit for the Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificate of Competency examination.

Background

2. Sections 5.2.1(ii) and 5.3.1(ii) of the Examination Rules for Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificate of Competency stipulate that an applicant should submit document to prove his identity for the application for examination or for the issue of certificate. The proof of identity as required in the examination rules is either the Hong Kong Identity Card or a passport.

3. Due to the special status of Hong Kong as a special administrative region in China, mainland residents are issued with "Hong Kong and Macau Travel Permit" by the mainland authority as a special permit for visiting Hong Kong. The permit is not classified as a passport and its holder is therefore not allowed to take the pleasure vessel operator certificate of competency examination.

4. In the Examination Rules, passport holders (who are not local residents) are permitted to take the said examinations and this is a clear indication that the Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificate of Competency is open to all. It is considered that such permit holders should not be deprived of the right to operate pleasure vessels while they are staying or working in Hong Kong. The documents required in section 5.2.1(ii) or 5.3.1(ii) are required as a proof of identity.

Proposed Amendments

5. In view of the above, it is proposed to amend sections 5.2.1(ii) and 5.3.1(ii) of the Examination Rules according to the attached **Annex** to allow people holding documents other than Hong Kong Identity Card or passport as proof of identity for the application of examination. The “Hong Kong and Macau Travel Permit” issued by the PRC authority will be considered as an approved identity document in the Examination Rules.

Action Requested

6. Members are invited to comment and endorse the above proposal.

Marine Department
Shipping Division
Shipping Registry and Seafarers' Branch

August 2011

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

Section no.	Existing Text	Proposed Amended Text
5.2.1	Applications can be made in person to the above address during office hours. Applicant should submit the following documents:- (i) (ii) proof of identity (Hong Kong Identity Card if held, or Passport) with copy of the submitted document; (iii) (i) (ii) proof of identity (Hong Kong Identity Card, Passport or approved identity document) with a copy of the submitted document; (iii)
5.3.1	Applicants should submit the following documents by post to the Seafarers' Certification Section for postal application:- (i) (ii) a photocopy of the identity document of the relevant applicant (i.e. Hong Kong Identity Card if held, or Passport); (iii) (i) (ii) a photocopy of the identity document of the relevant applicant (i.e. Hong Kong Identity Card, Passport or approved identity document); (iii)