

PILOTAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Extension of Service of a Licensed Pilot Beyond the Age of 65

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to seek members' endorsement on revising the current class of pilotage licence, from Class IIC to Class IID, for a pilot wishing to continue to work beyond the age of 65.

Background

2. Section 9A of the Pilotage Ordinance, Cap. 84 stipulates that a licensed pilot wishing to work beyond age of 65 may be issued with a Class IIC licence subject to his meeting the requirements for physical/mental fitness and passing the prescribed re-examination. The Class IIC licence as specified in the current legislation was the lowest class of the pilotage licences at the time when Section 9A was enacted in 1993.

Current Situation

3. In 1996, following a consultancy study commissioned by Marine Department on the pilotage services, the various classes of the pilotage licences was revised and a new class of pilotage licence, i.e. Class IID, was introduced into the legislation. However, for some unknown reasons, Section 9A was not amended to reflect the change at the same time. The following table shows the difference between the various classes of pilotage licences before and after 1 July 1996 :

Class	Before 1 July 1996	After 1 July 1996
IID		Not exceeding 150 metres
IIC	Not exceeding 153 metres	Not exceeding 165 metres
IIB	Not exceeding 168 metres	Not exceeding 220 metres
IIA	Not exceeding 229 metres	Not exceeding 260 metres
I	Any length	Any length

Consultation

4. Considering the original intent of Section 9A, which was to allow a pilot to serve beyond the age of 65 with the lowest class of pilotage licence, it is proposed that the current legislation should be amended such that a pilot will be issued with a Class IID if he wishes to continue to work after the age of 65. This subject was discussed and agreed by the PACWG on 20 February 2002. Subject to members' endorsement, legislative amendments will be processed accordingly.

Recommendation

5. Members are recommended to endorse the above proposal.

Presentation

6. The paper will be presented by Mr C. N. Chung of Marine Department.

Vessel Traffic Services Branch
Marine Department
April 2002