

PILOTAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Proposed Conditions for Pilotage Exemption for Vessels of 1,000 Gross Tonnages or over Proceeding to and from Kwai Chung Container Terminals

Background

At the PAC meeting held on 23 October 2002, member endorsed in principle the exemption of compulsory pilotage for river trade vessels proceeding to and from the Kwai Chung Container Terminals. This paper sets out the proposed conditions for exemption for members' endorsement.

Proposed Conditions

2. The following conditions for exemption are proposed:
 - (a) The Exemption is to be given to the master of the same ship which should be either less than 80 metres LOA, or less than 2000 Gross Tonnes, whichever is the less and NOT carrying dangerous cargoes in bulk or in loose form onboard.
 - (b) The master should hold a valid master certificate and licence issued by the Chinese Authority. He must have completed a minimum of 26 similar calls to Hong Kong per year, be able to communicate effectively and pass the practical assessment by Marine Department.
 - (c) The vessel shall carry VHF radio onboard and participate in Hong Kong Vessel Traffic Services.
 - (d) The vessel must carry a full set of updated Hong Kong Charts.

- (e) The Exemption is valid for one year and only for the same routes(s) as specified by the Pilotage Authority. Re-validation is subject to the master meeting the required number of calls during the year immediately before the re-validation, failing which a fresh application would be required together with the practical assessment.
- (f) The Exemption may be withdrawn at any time at the discretion of the Pilotage Authority.

Recommendation

3. The above proposed conditions were discussed and agreed by the PAC Working Group on 20 February 2002. Members are recommended to endorse these conditions for formal implementation.

Presentation

4. This paper will be presented by Mr. C. N. Chung of Marine Department.

Vessel Traffic Services Branch
Marine Department
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