

**Working Group of Pilotage Advisory Committee**

**Examination and Training of Pilots**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this paper is for members' discussion on the training, practical assessments and experience requirements for the proposed classes of pilotage revision.

**Background**

2. As discussed in previous Pilotage Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting on 15 December 2010, it was agreed that, in order to ensure pilots are proficient in handling larger vessels of about 400 meters in length, two new classes of pilotage should be added to the existing classes of pilotage which came into force in 1996. At the PAC meeting held on 18 May 2012, members agreed that a PAC Working Group meeting should be convened to discuss and set out the details of the related training and practical assessments as well as the experience required for the proposed classes of pilotage revision.

3. Under paragraph 7 of the Pilotage Order, Cap. 84C, the examinations for the classes of pilotage shall be defined after consultation with the PAC. The existing examination mechanism was endorsed by the PAC in 1995 and the arrangements are as follows:-

- i. Hong Kong Pilots Association (HKPA) arranges a proper training programme for apprentice and Class II pilots and be responsible for setting an examination standard under the supervision of Marine Department (MD).
- ii. For apprentice pilots, after fulfilling the “Appropriate Experience of Applicant” as stipulated in Schedule 1 to Cap. 84C, HKPA would conduct 4 practical assessments internally. After that, the apprentice will sit for the written examination conducted by MD, and the oral examination by the PAC Examination Board. For the subsequent upgrading of Class II pilots, they are required to fulfil the requirements as stipulated in Schedule 3 to Cap. 84C with regard to their respective class, no examination is required for their upgrading. However, HKPA would arrange 2 practical vessel-training and conduct 1 internal practical assessment on them before each upgrade.
- iii. For the upgrade to Class I from Class IIA, after fulfilling the requirements as stipulated in Schedule 3 to Cap. 84C, HKPA would conduct 3 practical assessments on the Class IIA pilot before he sits for the oral examination by the PAC Examination Board.

- iv. Since June 2004, HKPA has also arranged all apprentice pilots to attend simulation training on ship handling and crises management at the Marine Department Training Centre. Since December 2011, HKPA has further arranged similar simulation training for all Class II before their upgrading.
- v. For Class I pilots, such simulation training is required under the 5-year cycle Continued Proficiency Development Programme (CPDP) since June 2008.

### **The Problems**

4. The current classes of pilotage for Class II pilots only cover vessels of up to 260m in length. However, the ultra large container ships (ULCS) visiting Hong Kong are almost 400m in length. In principle, a newly upgraded Class I pilot will need to pilot these ULCS that are much larger than those ships he had handled. The gap is at present bridge by administrative measures introduced by HKPA.

5. Under the current training and assessment arrangements for the upgrade of Class 2 pilots, the pilots are only trained with practical vessel training and be assessed internally. This arrangement is not in line with those required for the apprentice pilots and the CPDP of the Class I pilots.

## **Proposals**

6. To take forward the idea discussed in PAC as well as to ensure pilots' competency in meeting the new classes of pilotage being proposed, it is suggested that appropriate simulation training should be arranged for the upgrade of all classes of pilotage. The Pilotage Authority and members of PAC, who are having appropriate professional qualification, should have more involvement in the practical assessments of pilots. Our initial proposal to effect the above is annexed with this paper. The Annex includes the proposed "experience required for the classes of pilotage and for amendment of a licence to a higher class of pilotage" and the proposed "training and assessment arrangement for the upgrading of classes of pilotage".

## **Advice Sought**

7. Members are requested to discuss and offer their views/comments on the proposal.

Pilotage Unit

Vessel Traffic Section

Vessel Traffic Services Branch

Marine Department

June 2012

Proposal on the Experience Required for the Classes of Pilotage and for  
Amendment of a Licence to a Higher Class of Pilotage

CURRENT REQUIREMENT

Class of Pilotage	Experience required
IID	(a) Pilotage of ships of not less than 107 metres and not more than 150 metres in length to or from buoys or anchorages on at least 10 occasions, of which at least 5 must commence during the hours between sunset and sunrise. (b) Berthing and unberthing of ships of not less than 107 metres and not more than 150 metres in length from wharves, berths, docks or piers on at least 20 occasions, of which at least 10 must commence during the hours between sunset and sunrise.
IIC	(a) A minimum of 12 months continuous experience in Class IID. (b) Pilotage of ships of not less than 150 metres and not more than 165 metres in length to or from buoys or anchorages on at least 10 occasions, of which at least 5 must commence during the hours between sunset and sunrise. (c) Berthing and unberthing of ships of not less than 150 metres and not more than 165 metres in length from wharves, berths, docks or piers on at least 20 occasions, of which at least 10 must commence during the hours between sunset and sunrise.
IIB	(a) A minimum of 12 months continuous experience in Class IIC. (b) Pilotage of ships of not less than 165 metres and not more than 220 metres in length to or from buoys or anchorages on at least 10 occasions, of which at least 5 must commence during the hours between sunset and sunrise. (c) Berthing and unberthing of ships of not less than 165 metres and not more than 220 metres in length from wharves, berths, docks or piers on at least 20 occasions, of which at least 10 must commence during the hours between sunset and sunrise.
IIA	(a) A minimum of 12 months continuous experience in Class IIB. (b) Pilotage of ships of not less than 220 metres and not more than 260 metres in length to or from buoys or anchorages on at least 10 occasions, of which at least 5 must commence during the hours between sunset and sunrise. (c) Berthing and unberthing of ships of not less than 220 metres and not more than 260 metres in length from wharves, berths, docks or piers on at least 20 occasions, of which at least 10 must commence during the hours between sunset and sunrise.
I	A minimum of 12 months continuous experience in Class IIA.

## PROPOSED REQUIREMENT

Class of Pilotage	Experience required
IIF	<p>(a) Pilotage of ships of not less than 107 metres and not more than 160 metres in length to or from buoys or anchorages on at least 10 occasions, of which at least 5 must commence during the hours between sunset and sunrise.</p> <p>(b) Berthing and unberthing of ships of not less than 107 metres and not more than 160 metres in length from wharves, berths, docks or piers on at least 20 occasions, of which at least 10 must commence during the hours between sunset and sunrise.</p>
IIE	<p>(a) A minimum of 12 months continuous experience in Class IIF.</p> <p>(b) Pilotage of ships of not less than 160 metres and not more than 180 metres in length to or from buoys or anchorages on at least 10 occasions, of which at least 5 must commence during the hours between sunset and sunrise.</p> <p>(c) Berthing and unberthing of ships of not less than 160 metres and not more than 180 metres in length from wharves, berths, docks or piers on at least 20 occasions, of which at least 10 must commence during the hours between sunset and sunrise.</p>
IID	<p>(a) A minimum of 12 months continuous experience in Class IIE.</p> <p>(b) Pilotage of ships of not less than 180 metres and not more than 210 metres in length to or from buoys or anchorages on at least 10 occasions, of which at least 5 must commence during the hours between sunset and sunrise.</p> <p>(c) Berthing and unberthing of ships of not less than 180 metres and not more than 210 metres in length from wharves, berths, docks or piers on at least 20 occasions, of which at least 10 must commence during the hours between sunset and sunrise.</p>
IIC	<p>(a) A minimum of 12 months continuous experience in Class IID.</p> <p>(b) Pilotage of ships of not less than 210 metres and not more than 250 metres in length to or from buoys or anchorages on at least 10 occasions, of which at least 5 must commence during the hours between sunset and sunrise.</p> <p>(c) Berthing and unberthing of ships of not less than 210 metres and not more than 250 metres in length from wharves, berths, docks or piers on at least 20 occasions, of which at least 10 must commence during the hours between sunset and sunrise.</p>
IIB	<p>(a) A minimum of 12 months continuous experience in Class IIC.</p> <p>(b) Pilotage of ships of not less than 250 metres and not more than 300 metres in length to or from buoys or anchorages on at least 10 occasions, of which at least 5 must commence during the hours between sunset and sunrise.</p> <p>(c) Berthing and unberthing of ships of not less than 250 metres and not more than 300 metres in length from wharves, berths, docks or piers on at least 20 occasions, of which at least 10 must commence during the hours between sunset and sunrise.</p>
IIA	<p>(a) A minimum of 12 months continuous experience in Class IIB.</p> <p>(b) Pilotage of ships of not less than 300 metres and not more than 350 metres in length to or from buoys or anchorages on at least 10 occasions, of which at least 5 must commence during the hours between sunset and sunrise.</p> <p>(c) Berthing and unberthing of ships of not less than 300 metres and not more than 350 metres in length from wharves, berths, docks or piers on at least 20 occasions, of which at least 10 must commence during the hours between sunset and sunrise.</p>
I	A minimum of 12 months continuous experience in Class IIA.

**Proposal on the Training and Assessment Arrangement  
for Upgrading of Classes of Pilotage**

**Current Training and Assessment Arrangement (endorsed by PAC in 1995)**

<b>Pilot Class</b>	<b>Maximum Length (Since 1996)</b>	<b>Training &amp; Assessment for Upgrading to next higher class</b>
I	Any Length	Continued Proficiency Development Programme* (including simulation practice in a 5-year cycle since 2006)
II A	260m	Oral Examination (by PAC members)* 3 practical assessments*
II B	220m	2 practical vessel-training 1 <b>internal</b> practical assessment
II C	165m	2 practical vessel-training 1 <b>internal</b> practical assessment
II D	150m	2 practical vessel-training 1 <b>internal</b> practical assessment
Appre ntice	Training as per Cap. 84C Schedule 1	Oral & Written Examinations (by PAC members)* 4 <b>internal</b> practical assessments Simulation practice (since 2004)

## Proposed Training and Assessment Arrangement

<b>Pilot Class</b>	<b>Maximum Length (Proposed)</b>	<b>Training &amp; Assessment for Upgrading to next higher class</b>
I	Any length	Continued Proficiency Development Programme* (including simulation practice in a 5-year cycle since 2006)
II A	350m	Oral Examination (by PAC members)* 3 <b>joint</b> practical assessments** Simulation practice #
II B	300m	2 practical vessel-training 1 <b>joint</b> practical assessment ** Simulation practice #
II C	250m	2 practical vessel-training 1 <b>joint</b> practical assessment ** Simulation practice #
II D	210m	2 practical vessel-training 1 <b>joint</b> practical assessment ** Simulation practice #
II E (new)	180m	2 practical vessel-training 1 <b>joint</b> practical assessment ** Simulation practice #
II F (new)	160m	2 practical vessel-training 1 <b>joint</b> practical assessment ** Simulation practice #
Apprentice	Training as per Cap. 84C Schedule 1	Oral & Written Examinations (by PAC members)* 4 <b>joint</b> practical assessments** Simulation practice #

Remarks: \* = Required by PAC  
 \*\* = Conducted by MD and HKPA  
 # = Assessed by HKPA and MD and/or member(s) of the PAC who has appropriate professional qualification