

Provisional Local Vessel Advisory Committee

Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Dwelling Vessels) Regulation

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to seek members comments on a new legislation for the regulation and control of dwelling vessels in the waters of Hong Kong.

Background

2. The Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Bill was introduced to the Legislative Counsel on 31 March 1999.

3. Currently, dwelling vessels are regulated and controlled under the Shipping and Port Control (Dwelling Vessels) Regulations which are subsidiary legislation made under the Shipping and Port Control Ordinance, Cap. 313. However, the Regulations will be repealed with the coming into force of a new Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance.

4. Therefore, a new Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Dwelling Vessels) Regulation, which should incorporate all necessary provisions for the regulation and control of dwelling vessels, will be made under the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance.

The Regulation

5. A Departmental Draft of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Dwelling Vessels) Regulation is attached at Annex. Except some outdated regulations are amended, this Regulation contains the same provisions, in seriatim, of the current Shipping and Port Control (Dwelling Vessels) Regulations.

Proposed Amendments

6. The amendments proposed in the Regulation are highlighted in the followings -
- (i) As there are about 20 licensed dwelling vessels remained in Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter, Cheung Chau Typhoon Shelter and Shuen Wan Typhoon Shelter, only these Typhoon Shelters will be declared as Prescribed Areas.
 - (ii) Except the Prescribed Areas, all areas of the waters of Hong Kong will be declared to be closed to dwelling vessels.
 - (iii) The fine penalized for committing an offence under this Regulation will be reference to an equivalent level of fine.

Commencement Date

7. It is expected that the new Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Dwelling Vessels) Regulation would come into operation in end of 1999.

Consultation

9. Members are invited to give their comments on the new Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Dwelling Vessels) Regulation.