

PROVISIONAL LOCAL VESSEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP TO STUDY THE EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZED SURVEYOR SYSTEM

1 Purpose

This paper is to seek members' views on the proposal for the establishment of a working group to consider the inclusion of Registered Professional Engineer (Marine & Naval Architecture) (hereafter to be referred as 'RPE') as authorized surveyor.

2 Background

2.1 In 1992, a paper No. 3/92, titled "Proposed Authorized Persons System for Local Vessels" was submitted to this committee for discussion. The paper suggested that in future the inspection of all local vessels except certain 'high risk' vessels should be delegated to the 7 recognized classification societies namely:

- (a) American Bureau of Shipping
- (b) Bureau Veritas
- (c) China Classification Society
- (d) Det Norske Veritas
- (e) Germanischer Lloyds
- (f) Lloyd's Register of Shipping
- (g) Nippon Kaiji Kyokai.

2.2 The reasons for this delegation arrangement of inspections are the classification societies' world wide reputation, ample trainings given to their surveyors, research and development support, corruption prevention assurance and technically sound and capacity to stand up to public scrutiny. This committee endorsed the proposal and remarked that any extension of the authorized person scheme would be dependent on the success of this initial proposal. Based on this decision, the Code of Practice for safety standards of local vessels is therefore prepared.

2.3 The new Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance stipulated that the Director of Marine may authorize in writing a person, or a person belonging to a class of persons, who is not a public officer to be a surveyor, for the purpose of the Ordinance - including the inspection of local vessels, subject to such conditions, if any, as the Director of

Marine thinks fit and specified in the authorization. As the Code of Practice is almost completed, it is the right time to consider, subject to the result of the delegation to classification societies being satisfactory, extending the authorized surveyor system to include certain class of persons other than classification societies to undertake inspection of local vessels.

3 The Proposal

- 3.1 It is proposed that, as a measure to prepare for the extension of authorization system in future, a working group be set up under this committee to conduct study of the inclusion of RPE as authorized surveyor.
 - 3.2 RPE are registered by the Engineers Registration Board under the Engineers Registration Ordinance. They have been authorized by other government department to conduct inspections and issue certificates on behalf of the government, for example the inspection and certification of the builder's lift used in construction site. In the future lifting appliances onboard vessels will also be required to be inspected and certified by RPE. It is therefore RPE may be considered to be included as authorized surveyor to undertake inspection of local vessels.
 - 3.3 As the inspection of vessel is a complex task that requires knowledge in hull structure and construction, stability, machinery and electrical installation, the possession of appropriate qualification and experience in the field is essential. The proposed working group will carry out studies and advise on matters relating to the authorization, for example the necessary qualification and experience, conflict of interest, liabilities and method of monitoring, etc. The working group will be required to consult relevant professional bodies and authorities, e.g. the Independent Commission Against Corruption etc, when deemed necessary. Upon completion of the study the working group will report and submit recommendations to this committee for scrutiny and approval.
 - 3.4 It is suggested that the membership of working group be limited to about 10, consisting of representatives of relevant local professional bodies, classification societies, industry and the Marine Department.
- 4 Members are welcome to give comment on the contents of this paper.

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