

PROVISIONAL LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**New Licensing Requirement for
High-Power Open Deck Pleasure Vessels**

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to seek members' endorsement on the requirement proposed in paragraphs 4 and 5 below.

Background

2. Members discussed the proposal set out in the PLVAC Paper No. 12/2004 at the 35th PLVAC Committee Meeting. Members considered it inappropriate to impose licensing requirements for the purpose of fighting smuggling activities and did not support the requirements proposed under that paper.

3. Nevertheless, there is a trend that a growing sector of boat operators are installing high-power outboard engines on simple designed open deck vessels. As pleasure vessels are generally not required to be surveyed, the Marine Department is concerned about the implication on safety at sea arising from the installation of high-power outboard engines on lightly constructed GRP vessels, particularly those with low freeboard capable of running at speeds in excess of 35 knots. Hence, it is considered necessary to take immediate action to ensure that no high-power outboard engine will be installed on open deck vessels unless it is suitably designed and constructed for fitting high-power outboard engine.

New Proposal

4. To avoid causing unnecessary inconvenience to boatowners, it is proposed that for any new licensing of an open deck pleasure vessel which is fitted with outboard engine(s) of 200 HP or above, the vessel's owner is required to provide *inter alia* a document showing that the vessel is suitable for installing such high-power engine(s) operating at full speed. In case of altering the outboard engine on a licensed open deck vessel in order to increase the engine power (200 HP or above), the same requirement will be applied to the vessel.

5. As the new requirement is to ensure that high-power outboard engine(s) will be installed on suitable vessel only, the required document may be in form of vessel specifications information or declaration made by the builder of the vessel concerned.

Implication

6. As boatowners should have no difficulty to obtain the required document from the builder of the vessels concerned, it is anticipated that the proposed requirement would have minimal implication to boatowners.

Endorsement Sought

7. Members' endorsements or comments on the requirement proposed in paragraphs 4 and 5 above.

Implementation

8. Subject to Members' endorsement on the proposal, the new requirement will be implemented after the promulgation of relevant Marine Department Notice.

*Licensing & Port Formalities Section
Marine Department
June 2005*