

**High Speed Craft Consultative Committee (HSCCC)**

**Proposed Amendments for Entry Requirements of  
River Trade Class 3 Marine Engineer Officer Certificate Examination**

**Introduction**

1. The Certificates of Competency and Licences for Marine Engineer Officers and Electro-technical Officers Determinations (the Determinations) sets out the training and examination requirements for river trade (RT) engineer officers. Currently, the provisions of the Determinations provide experience route for seagoing oilers or fitters to join the RT industry as Marine Engineer Officers via examination. However, there is no similar experience route for those oilers and fitters solely with RT service experience.

2. Prompted by the shortage of qualified engineers in the RT field, there were number of enquiries from seafarers' unions, shipping companies and serving RT ratings seeking the acceptance of RT sea service experience also as one of the eligible requirements to sit for RT Class 3 engineer examination. To MD's record, there were only a few active Hong Kong ratings working on board seagoing vessels and over the years, there were no seagoing oiler or fitter applying for the said examination.

**The Proposal for RT Engine Room Ratings**

3. Under Section 3.29.1 (Qualifying Sea Service and Workshop Skill Training) of the Determinations, "*Services on lakes, rivers or within smooth or partially smooth water limits may be accepted at half rate up to a maximum of half of the required qualifying sea service*".

4. As seagoing oilers or fitters are required to have at least 2.5 years seagoing experience for sitting RT Class 3 engineer examination, it is therefore proposed that an addition provision to be added to section 4.1.1 (c) of the Determination stating "*have completed combined experience on recognized sea service and workshop duties at the capacities of motorman, fitter or similar capacity for more than 5 years in river trade industry, the recognized sea service shall not be less than 12 months*" are to be accepted as an experience route option to sit for RT Class 3 engineer examination. The requirements for age, basic education and safety training remain unchanged. The proposal aims to provide the platform for RT ratings to upgrade themselves to becoming RT engineer officers in addition to those with combined workshop and

sea service experience.

5. All candidates for river trade examination should present the Form 3 – Testimonial on combined sea services and workshop duties in river trade industry as attached.

**Consultation**

6. Members are requested to provide comments/views, if any, on the proposal. If there is no objection to the proposal, the Determinations for engineer officers will be amended accordingly.

Shipping Division  
Marine Department  
26 November 2013