

Notes for Holders of Certificate of Ownership of Local Vessels

1. The certificate of ownership is subject to the provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Cap. 548) and the regulations made thereunder.
2. The certificate of ownership is NOT equivalent to registration as a Hong Kong vessel under the Merchant Shipping (Registration) Ordinance (Cap. 415).
3. The certificate of ownership is not required to be kept on board the vessel. The owner of the vessel should keep it in a safe place.
4. If the certificate of ownership is lost, destructed or defaced, the owner shall apply in writing to the Director of Marine for a duplicate copy. Subject to the satisfaction of the Director of Marine and on payment of the prescribed fee, a duplicate copy will be issued and the original copy shall cease to have effect. The loss of certificate of ownership shall be reported at once to a Police Station. The lost certificate of ownership shall be returned to the Marine Department as soon as it is found. Please refer to section 54 of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Certification and Licensing) Regulation (Cap. 548D) for details.
5. The original and new owner shall deliver a notice of transfer of ownership of the vessel to the Director of Marine within 7 working days after the transfer of the ownership. The new owner of the vessel shall also apply to the Director of Marine for new certificate of ownership and pay the prescribed fee. Please refer to sections 22 and 23 of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Certification and Licensing) Regulation (Cap. 548D) for details.
6. The owner shall, within 7 working days after any change in the particulars of the certification of ownership, notify the Director of Marine in writing, provide necessary document and information for enabling the verification of the change, and pay the prescribed fee (if applicable). The Director of Marine will issue a new certificate of ownership and operating licence to the owner. Please refer to section 37 of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Certification and Licensing) Regulation (Cap. 548D) for details.

7. The vessel and its ancillary vessel(s) shall at all times have painted on it, or permanently affixed to or mounted on it, on each side of its deck housing or hull where it can best be seen, the certificate of ownership number of the vessel. In the case of an ancillary vessel, the certificate of ownership number of the vessel with a suffix “D” but, if there are more than one ancillary vessels, the suffixes for the ancillary vessels shall be “D”, “D2”, “D3” and so on. Please refer to section 38 of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Certification and Licensing) Regulation (Cap. 548D) for details.
8. The certificate of ownership number shall be in a colour that contrasts with the colour of the surface on which they appear and -
 - (a) in the case of a vessel not exceeding 10 metres in length overall, each figure, each letter, and the suffix shall be -
 - (i) at least 70 millimetres in height;
 - (ii) except in the case of the figure “1”, at least 40 millimetres in width; and
 - (iii) marked in lines that are at least 10 millimetres broad at every point;
 - (b) in the case of a vessel exceeding 10 metres but not exceeding 24 metres in length overall, each figure, each letter, and the suffix shall be -
 - (i) at least 150 millimetres in height;
 - (ii) except in the case of the figure "1", at least 90 millimetres in width; and
 - (iii) marked in lines that are at least 20 millimetres broad at every point; and
 - (c) in the case of a vessel exceeding 24 metres in length overall, each figure, each letter, and the suffix shall be -
 - (i) at least 300 millimetres in height;
 - (ii) except in the case of the figure “1”, at least 170 millimetres in width; and
 - (iii) marked in lines that are at least 40 millimetres broad at every point.

No person shall tamper with, obscure or erase wholly or in part any marking of the certificate of ownership number. Please refer to section 38 of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Certification and Licensing) Regulation (Cap. 548D) for details.

9. The vessel may display on it any name or mark, but such name or mark shall be separate and distinct from the certificate of ownership number and suffix (if applicable). The vessel shall not display on it any name or mark that gives a false impression that the vessel belongs to or is otherwise connected with the Government. The owner may make an application to the Director of Marine for specification in the certificate of ownership the name of the vessel. Upon approval, the vessel shall not display on it another name as its name. Please refer to section 40 of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Certification and Licensing) Regulation (Cap. 548D) for details.