

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 86 OF 2010

(Statutory Requirements and Related Information)

Alteration to Local Vessels

As reflected by findings of recent surveys for locally licensed vessels, a number of these vessels had undergone alterations without obtaining prior permission from the Marine Department or a Competent Surveyor. Such unauthorized alterations not only affect the safety of the vessels themselves but may also cause marine pollution and endanger the safety of other harbour users.

2. Under Section 76 of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels)(Safety and Survey) Regulation, Cap. 548G, the owner of a local vessel or his agent shall apply for a written permission of the Director of Marine before making any alteration to the vessel. For vessels issued with Certificates of Inspection (i.e. Class IV vessels for hire), such application shall be made to a Competent Surveyor.

3. In addition, Section 78 of the above Regulation stipulates the consequences for the alteration without permission which include:

- (i) the person who makes or causes the making of the alteration commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine at Level 3 (i.e. HK\$10,000);
- (ii) the Director may require that the vessel be restored to the condition the vessel was in immediately before the alteration; and
- (iii) the Director may suspend any certificate, record or declaration until he is satisfied that a requirement under (ii) above has been complied with in relation to the local vessel concerned.

4. Owners, agents and operators of local vessels are hereby reminded to strictly comply with the abovementioned requirement to apply for a written permission before making any alteration to a vessel.

5. For enquiries, please contact the Local Vessels Safety Section, Marine Department, 23/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong [Tel: (852) 2852 4444; Fax: (852) 2542 4679].

R. F. TUPPER
Director of Marine

Marine Department
Government of the HKSAR
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