

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 124 OF 1998

(Statutory Requirements and Related Information)

Speed Restriction Exemption Permission

Ship masters, coxswains and persons-in-charge of vessels are reminded to observe good seamanship practices when navigating in the waters of Hong Kong. In particular they should proceed at a safe speed at all times and not exceeding the speed limits as specified in Regulation 19 of the Shipping and Port Control Regulations.

2. With effect from 1 September 1998, a vessel wishing to operate at a speed above the statutory speed limits may apply for an exemption from the Director of Marine. Such exemption would be granted only to vessels having a genuine need to operate at a higher speed, for example those vessels providing a service to the general public, and subject to the following requirements :-

(a) For Dynamically Support Craft (DSC)

- (i) the vessel is operated on a specified route;
- (ii) the vessel possesses a valid Certificate of Registry or Licence issued by the Marine Department;
- (iii) the vessel has satisfactorily completed a "Failure Mode & Effect Analysis (FMEA)" on its control system; and
- (iv) the master (or coxswain) and engineer, possess valid Type Rating Certificates in addition to their appropriate Certificates of Competency.

(b) For Non-Dynamically Support Craft (Non-DSC)

- (i) the vessel is operated on a specified route;
- (ii) the vessel possesses a valid licence;
- (iii) the vessel is equipped with a radar in accordance with Marine Department's performance specification;
- (iv) the master (or coxswain) of the vessel has at least two years experience in operating high speed vessels or in possession of a valid Type Rating Certificate; and
- (v) at least one of the crew member serving on the vessel possesses a valid Radar Observer Certificate.

3. Application for "Speed Restriction Exemption Permission" (SREP) should be sent to the Harbour Patrol Section, New Yaumatei Typhoon Shelter Reclamation, Tai Kok Tsui, Kowloon and enclosed with copies of the following documents/information :

- (a) the vessel's Licence or Certificate of Registry;
- (b) service record of the master (or coxswain) in operating high speed vessels (for non-DSC vessel only);
- (c) Radar Observer Certificate of the crew member (for non-DSC vessel only); and
- (d) wave making information of the vessel at various speed for new application, application for renewal should produce the same information if available.

4. A "SREP" of maximum allowable speed up to 35 knots in a specified route along the fairways may be granted to a vessel. It must be emphasized that a "SREP" does not exempt the master from the responsibility of navigating at a safe speed at all times. They shall not proceed at a speed of more than 15 knots while navigating in the Central Fairway and shall comply with other conditions laid down in the "SREP".

5. The "SREP" will be valid for a maximum period of one year subject to the validity of the vessel's licence and FMEA. Application for renewal of the "SREP" may be made to the Harbour Patrol Section one month before the expiry of the current "SREP".

6. The processing of the "SREP" will take two weeks after all information is received. The applicant may be required to produce the original copies or the certified true copies of the documents for inspection before the issue of the "SREP".

7. Any inquiries to this Notice can be directed to the Harbour Patrol Section of the Marine Department (Tel no. 2928 6375 Fax no. 2385 8260).

8. This Notice supersedes the Marine Department Notice No. 48 of 1994.

S.Y. TSUI
Director of Marine

Marine Department
Government of the HKSAR

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