

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 215/2023

(Statutory Requirements and Related Information)

Alteration to Local Vessels

This Notice reminds ship owners, agents, operators and repairers of their responsibility with respect to alteration intended to be made on a licensed local vessel which is issued with a Certificate of Survey (COS) or a Certificate of Inspection (COI). This Notice supersedes the MDN No. 86 of 2010.

Alteration that requires permission

2. If the intended alteration is of such an extent that will render the particulars stated in any documents referred to in section 75(a) of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Safety and Survey) Regulation (Cap. 548G) inaccurate, but not to the extent that it will render the vessel a new vessel, the owner shall follow the provision of section 76 or section 77 of Cap. 548G to apply for a written permission before making any alteration to the vessel. If an alteration is made without the required written permission, 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. The altered vessel will be required to be restored to the condition it was in immediately before the alteration. Vessel's certificates may be suspended before the required restoration work is completed.

Other alteration

3. Under section 28(2)(a)(v) of Cap. 548G, a vessel's COS or COI may be suspended or cancelled if any material change occurs after the survey leading to the issue of the COS or COI.

Alteration that will cause a local vessel be regarded as a new vessel

4. If the intended alteration is so substantial that it causes the vessel to fall within the definition of "New Vessel" described in paragraph (b) under the section 2 of Cap. 548G, the vessel needs to be issued with a new license and shall comply with all the latest applicable requirements.

Application required to be made by the owner or his agent

5. Owner or his agent shall make an application for alteration using the specified form if the intended alteration of his vessel falls in paragraph 2 or 3. The application form for alteration can be downloaded from the Marine Department(MD)'s website.

6. The application form should be submitted to the Marine Department or an Authorized Surveyor (AS) depending on the type of certificate that the vessel is issued with:

- (a) if the certificate is a COS, the application form shall be submitted to the Local Vessels Safety Section of MD;
- (b) if the certificate is a COI, the application form shall be submitted to the AS who issued the COI.

7. Owner or his agent shall apply to MD according to the procedure of licensing a new vessel if the intended alteration of his vessel falls in paragraph 4.

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

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Director of Marine

Marine Department

Government of the HKSAR

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