

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 92 of 2017

(Statutory Requirements and Related Information)

Updated Arrangements in the Recognition of Fishing Vessel Personnel Certificates for the Operation of “Guangdong/Hong Kong Mobile Fishing Vessels” under the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Cap. 548)

This Notice serves to inform owners, operators and crew of licensed Class III fishing vessels, fish carriers or fishing sampans, which are also holding valid Guangdong/Hong Kong/Macau Mobile Fishing Vessel Registration Books issued by The Border Control Department of the Ministry of Public Security (hereinafter referred as “Guangdong/Hong Kong mobile fishing vessels”), of the updated arrangements in the recognition of Fishing Vessel Personnel Certificates issued by the Guangdong Provincial Marine and Fisheries Inspection Bureau of the People’s Republic of China (hereinafter referred as the “recognized authority”) for the operation of their vessels.

2. Due to the entry into force of the “Measures of the People's Republic of China for the Administration of Seaman in the Fishery Industry” on 1 January 2015, the previous Fishery Vessel Officer’s Certificates issued by the recognized authority is being phased out and the new Fishing Vessel Personnel Certificates are to be issued. To recognize such certificates with applicable length/power limits under the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance, Cap. 548, the following measures are introduced: -

(i) Issue of Hong Kong Coxswain and Engine Operator Certificates to Hong Kong Residents holding Recognized PRC Fishing Vessel Personnel Certificates –

A Hong Kong resident holding a Grade 1, 2 or 3 Fishing Vessel Personnel Certificate as master or chief engineer (hereinafter referred as the “recognized certificate”) issued by the recognized authority is eligible, upon application, for the issue of a Coxswain Grade 3 Certificate or an Engine Operator Grade 3 Certificate, as appropriate, restricted to operate “Guangdong/Hong Kong mobile fishing vessels” only. Such local certificates of competency will expire on the same expiry date as the “recognized certificates”. A table showing the corresponding length/power limits of the Hong Kong certificates that will be issued against the different grades of “recognized certificates” is shown in the annex of this Notice.

(ii) Issue of Exemption Certificate for Engine Operator holding a Recognized Certificate –

Owner of a “Guangdong/Hong Kong mobile fishing vessel” may apply to the Marine Department for the issue of an exemption certificate to permit a person holding a “recognized certificate” as chief engineer to take charge of the engines of the vessel with total power equals to or below as limited by the “recognized certificate”. If such a person is not a Hong Kong resident, he/she shall also comply with other applicable legal requirements for working onboard the vessel within Hong Kong waters, and his/her working place shall be restricted to the vessel to which the exemption certificate is issued.

(iii) Status of Former Hong Kong Local Certificates of Competency as Master and Engineer of Fishing Vessel –

The local certificates of competency as master or engineer of a fishing vessel issued previously under the Shipping and Port Control Ordinance, Cap. 313 or the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, Cap. 281 are recognized as equivalent certificates under the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance, Cap. 548. Holders of these Hong Kong certificates are not required to apply for new certificates if they are only operating “Guangdong/Hong Kong mobile fishing vessels”.

3. With the entry into force of “the Measures”, the valid Fishery Vessel Officer’s Certificates previously issued by the “recognized authority” are still recognized according to the Marine Department Notice No. 129 of 2007 when applying for the Hong Kong certificates. However, such recognized arrangement is valid until 31 December 2019.

4. Application for the above mentioned exemption or certificate shall be made to the Seafarers’ Certification Section of Marine Department, 3/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong. A fee will be charged for the issue of a certificate or exemption as described in paragraph 2(i) or 2(ii) above. Telephone enquiry can be made to 2852 4941.

5. Owners, operators of “Guangdong/Hong Kong mobile fishing vessels” are also reminded that pursuant to section 50 of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Certification and Licensing) Regulation, Cap. 548D, any person in charge of a local vessel fitted with a propulsion engine, including a “Guangdong/Hong Kong mobile fishing vessel”, while operating within Hong Kong waters shall carry onboard valid and relevant certificates, including any exemption certificate and “recognized certificate” as applicable, for inspection

by the authorized officers. If these local vessels operate in Guangdong waters, they shall also comply with the minimum manning requirements of the “recognized authority”.

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Director of Marine

Marine Department
Government of the HKSAR
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Annex

Table: Length/Power limits applied to Fishery Vessel Officer's Certificates issued by the Guangdong Provincial Marine and Fisheries Inspection Bureau, People's Republic of China

People's Republic of China Fishing Vessel Personnel Certificate			Applicable to Fishing Vessels In Mainland Waters	Applicable to Hong Kong Licensed Guangdong/Hong Kong Mobile Fishing Vessels In Hong Kong Waters
Types	Posts	Grades		
Seagoing	Master	Grade 1	Fishing vessel of length 45 meters or more	Class III fishing vessel, fish carrier, or fishing sampan of length overall less than 50 meters
		Grade 2	Fishing vessel of length greater than or equal to 24 meters but less than 45 meters	Class III fishing vessel, fish carrier, or fishing sampan of length overall less than 45 meters
		Grade 3	Fishing vessel of length greater than or equal to 12 meters but less than 24 meters	Class III fishing vessel, fish carrier, or fishing sampan of length overall less than 24 meters
	Chief Engineer	Grade 1	Fishing Vessel with total main propulsion engine power 750 kW or more	Class III fishing vessel, fish carrier, or fishing sampan with total main propulsion engine power less than 3 000 kW
		Grade 2	Fishing Vessel with total main propulsion engine power greater than or equal to 250 kW but less than 750 kW	Class III fishing vessel, fish carrier, or fishing sampan with total main propulsion engine power less than 750 kW
		Grade 3	Fishing Vessel with total main propulsion engine power greater than or equal to 50 kW but less than 250 kW	Class III fishing vessel, fish carrier, or fishing sampan with total main propulsion engine power less than 250 kW