

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 159 OF 2019

(Miscellaneous Information)

Applications for Extension of Local Certificates of Competency's Validity and Issuance of Local Certificates of Competency to Holders Aged 65 or Above Whose Certificates Have Expired for Less Than 36 months

This Notice serves to inform coxswains, engine operators and pleasure vessel operators of the applicable conditions and procedures regarding applications for –

- (a) extension of the validity of local certificates of competency (“CoC”); and
- (b) issuance of CoC for holders aged 65 or above whose CoC have expired for less than 36 months.

Applications for Extension of Local CoC's Validity

2. Pursuant to the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Local Certificates of Competency) Rules, a certificate expires when the holder of the certificate attains the age of 65. The certificate holder must apply for extension of the validity period before the expiry of the certificate.

3. Local CoC holders who wish to apply for extension of the validity of

their CoC(s) should apply in person not more than 6 months prior to their attaining the age of 65. Applicants must –

- (i) complete the Application for Extension of Certificate of Competency for Local Vessels Form (MD 686);
- (ii) submit the original CoC and show the original copy of their Hong Kong Identity Card to Marine Department (“MD”). A copy of each of the two documents should also be submitted; and
- (iii) in the case of coxswains or pleasure vessel operators, submit a valid Eyesight Test Certificate (MD 688 or MD 687) issued by a registered medical practitioner or registered optometrist.

4. An applicant who is physically fit and passes the eyesight test will be granted an extension for 3 years counting from the date of his attaining the age of 65 years. Holders of Local CoC may apply for an extension of another 3 years until the age of 71 years. Thereafter, application for extension should be made within 3 months before the expiry of the certificate and the extension will only be granted on a yearly basis.

5. Application for extension is free of charge. Holders of CoC(s) should reserve sufficient time to make an application for extension of the validity of their CoC(s) before expiry. Application for extension of expired CoC(s) will not be accepted except for the arrangement as detailed in paragraph 8 below. All expired certificates will only be re-issued after passing the relevant examination as stipulated in the Examination Rules and paying the relevant examination fees.

6. It is the responsibility of CoC holders to provide their contact details (including correspondence address and/or mobile phone number) to the Seafarers' Certification Section of the MD for future correspondence. In case of any subsequent changes of the contact details, CoC holders should also update the Seafarers' Certification Section as soon as possible by submitting the Notice of Change of Personal Particulars Form (MD 716).

7. The above-mentioned forms can be obtained from the Seafarers' Certification Section or downloaded from the MD website (www.mardep.gov.hk/en/forms/home.html#exam).

Applications for Issuance of Local CoCs by Holders Aged 65 or Above Whose Certificates Have Expired for Less Than 36 Months

8. Without prejudice to marine safety and taking into account the fact that holders of expired CoCs will not lose their abilities to navigate or operate a local vessel immediately upon the expiry of the relevant CoCs, holders of a CoC which has expired for less than 36 months may apply for issuance of a CoC with the same grade as that of the expired CoC without examination if they meet the conditions stated below -

- (i) the expired CoC has not been suspended or cancelled under any legislation;
- (ii) the holder must return the expired CoC to MD and pay the prescribed fee;

- (iii) attend MD's office in person to prove that he has no physical disability which may affect the safe navigation or operation of a local vessel;
- (iv) if the CoC belongs to the coxswain or pleasure vessel operator grade, the holder should provide an Eyesight Test Certificate to show that the eyesight standards for coxswains or pleasure vessel operators have been met;
- (v) holder of a CoC which has expired for less than 12 months and meeting the conditions as stated in (i) to (iv) above may apply for a new CoC directly; and
- (vi) holder of a CoC which has expired for 12 months or more but less than 36 months is required to complete a recognised maritime refresher course in addition to meeting the conditions as stated in (i) to (iv) above.

9. The training providers approved by the Director to offer the recognised maritime refresher course are -

- (i) Maritime Services Training Institute, Vocational Training Council
Address: 23 Castle Peak Road, Tai Lam Chung, Tuen Mun, N.T.
Tel.: 2458 3833
Website: www.msti.edu.hk/
- (ii) Hong Kong Seamen's Union and Small Craft Workers Union
Address: A4 United Court, 2/Floor, 37G, Jordan Road, Kowloon
Tel.: 2332 0766
Website: www.hksu1946.hk/main/index.php

(iii) Institute of Seatransport

Address: Room 1605-7C, 16/Floor, China Merchants Building,

152-155 Connaught Road, Central, Hong Kong

Tel.: 2581 0003

Website: www.seatransport.org/

10. **If a CoC has expired for 36 months or longer, the application for issuance of relevant CoC without examination will not be entertained.** Holders of these expired CoCs are required to pass the examinations concerned and pay the relevant examination fees before they can obtain new CoCs.

11. For enquiry, please contact Seafarers' Certification Section, 3rd Floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong (Telephone: 2852 4941, email: local_crt@mardep.gov.hk, or Fax: 2541 6754).

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Director of Marine

Marine Department

Government of the HKSAR

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