

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 199/2021

(Statutory Requirements and Related Information)

The Validity Period of Certificate of Survey (“CoS”) and Endorsement for Locally Licensed Vessels

This Notice provides detailed information on the validity period of CoS and Endorsement for locally licensed vessels, so that ship owners can refer to it and arrange surveys accordingly.

The arrangements for the surveys and certification of vessels are applicable to general vessels in Part A and vessels classed with an Authorized Organization (“AO”)¹ in Part B as mentioned below.

Part A: General Vessels

Periodical Survey Items

1. For vessels which are not classed with an AO or which were once classed with an AO but no longer maintain such status, they shall be surveyed in accordance with the survey items stipulated in relevant Codes of Practice (CoPs) for different classes of vessels. Meanwhile, the relevant surveys for CoS renewal can be conducted within two months before the expiry of the certificates.

The Validity Period of CoS and Endorsement

2. Vessels subject to annual surveys will be issued with a CoS with a validity period of 12 months upon completion of the survey. The validity period starts from the date of completion of the survey or the expiry date of the existing certificate (if the certificate has not yet expired on the date of completion of the survey), whichever is the later, but will in no circumstances exceed 14 months. The expiry date shall be determined as shown in the following table:

¹ The latest list of AOs can be found on the following webpage of the Marine Department:
https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub_services/ocean/pdf/lvs_list.pdf

No.	Date of Final Inspection	Expiry Date of New Certificate/Endorsement
(a)	Newly constructed or first-time licensed vessel	FID + 12 months ^(*1)
(b)	Re-commissioned laid-up vessel	FID + 12 months
(c)	Licensed vessel	
	(i) within two months before CED	CED + 12 months
	(ii) after CED	FID + 12 months
	(iii) more than two months before CED	FID + 12 months
<p>CED = expiry date of existing certificate/endorsement FID = final inspection date Note *1 For a newly constructed vessel required to be surveyed on a slipway (or in a dry dock), the validity period of a new certificate should not exceed 14 months counted from the last hull survey date or the final inspection date plus 12 months, whichever is the earlier.</p>		

3. The following vessels subject to biennial surveys will be issued with a CoS valid for 24 months upon completion of the survey. The validity period starts from the date of completion of the survey or the expiry date of the existing certificate (if the certificate has not yet expired on the date of completion of the survey), whichever is the later, but will in no circumstances exceed 26 months. (Note: the ship owner shall submit a “Declaration on Annual Survey of Safety and Equipment” in the alternate year when survey of the vessel is not required.)

- (i) Non-metallic work boat (Class IIB);
- (ii) Landing pontoon;
- (iii) Landing platform;
- (iv) Stationary vessel – landing pontoon;
- (v) Stationary vessel – vessel’s length overall x extreme breadth > 25 m² (except landing pontoon and kitchen boat);

- (vi) Glass reinforced plastic fishing vessel – vessel's length < 15 m;
and
- (vii) Wooden fishing vessel – vessel's length \geq 8 m

4. The following vessels subject to triennial surveys will be issued with a CoS valid for 36 months upon completion of the survey. The validity period starts from the date of completion of the survey or the expiry date of the existing certificate (if the certificate has not yet expired on the date of completion of the survey), whichever is the later, but will in no circumstances exceed 38 months. (Note: the ship owner shall submit a "Declaration on Annual Survey of Safety and Equipment" in the years when survey of the vessel is not required.)

- (i) Stationary vessel – vessel's length overall x extreme breadth $\leq 25 \text{ m}^2$ (except kitchen boat); and
- (ii) Wooden fishing vessel – vessel's length < 8 m

Part B: Locally Licensed Vessels Classed with an AO

Survey Items²

1. For vessels classed with an AO, they shall be surveyed in accordance with the survey items of vessels classed with an AO as stipulated in the relevant Codes of Practice for different classes of vessels or the survey items further specified by an AO that are individually accepted by the Maine Department (MD) in written notice. Meanwhile, the relevant surveys shall be carried out within the survey window period³.

2. After completing the survey according to the item list mentioned above, the AO will submit such documents as the Declaration of Survey and other survey records to the MD as stipulated by law. If the documents are in order, the MD will issue a CoS for the vessel.

The Validity Period of CoS and Endorsement

3. The validity period of the CoS corresponds with the AO's annual survey

² Including the items for initial survey, periodical survey and final inspection

³ Survey window period – refers to a specified period during which an AO allows the vessel to be surveyed. The survey window period of an annual survey is within three months on either side of the annual due date; the survey window period of a renewal survey is within three months before the annual due date.

cycle. In principle, the expiry date of the CoS should be the same as the last day of the survey window period before the next scheduled annual survey to be conducted by the AO, but it would be adjusted to correspond with the annual survey cycle of an AO.

4. Under the regular survey cycle, when a vessel has undergone the initial survey or renewal survey, it will be issued with a CoS valid for 15 months, i.e., a survey window period of one year plus three months. Afterwards, when the vessel has undergone the first, second and third annual surveys within the survey window period, it will be issued with a renewed CoS valid for 12 months counted from the expiry date of the existing CoS; and when the vessel has undergone the fourth annual survey within the survey window period, it will be issued with a renewed CoS valid for nine months counted from the expiry date of the existing CoS (i.e., until the due date of the renewal survey). Details are depicted in the following table.

No.	Types of Survey to be Conducted by an AO	Expiry Date of New Certificate/ Endorsement
(a)	Initial survey	15 months
(b)	The 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd annual surveys (shall be completed within the survey window period)	CED + 12 months
	The 4 th annual survey, which is the last annual survey before the renewal survey to be conducted by an AO (shall be completed within the survey window period)	CED + 9 months (until the due date of the renewal survey)
(c)	Renewal survey (shall be completed within the survey window period)	CED + 15 months (The next 5-year cycle commences)
CED = Expiry date of existing certificate/ endorsement		

5. In the exceptional case where ship owners expect that the surveys of their vessels cannot be completed within the survey window period, they should seek permission from the MD in advance. The MD will consider the application on a case-by-case basis.

The Conditions and Restrictions in the CoS

6. The above arrangements are only applicable to vessels classed with an AO. It will also be stipulated in the relevant CoS of these vessels that they shall possess a valid Classification Society's Certificate.

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Date: 17 November 2021

File Ref.: L/M No.47/2021 in MD-LVSS-F20-015-03A-002-P001