



MARINE DEPARTMENT
HONG KONG

Examination Rules for
Local Certificates of Competency
(Other Than Pleasure Vessel)

Made under section 16 of
The Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Cap. 548)

(June 2025 Edition)

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Chapter 1

Commencement, Introduction, Interpretation and General Requirements

1.1 These examination rules are made by the Director of Marine under powers granted to him by the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Cap. 548) (the Ordinance) and shall enter into force upon the enactment of the Ordinance.

1.2 The requirements for the carriage of appropriate certificated operators are contained in the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Certification and Licensing) Regulation (Cap. 548 sub.leg.D).

1.3 Within the context of these rules:-

“aggregate power” (總功率), in relation to a local vessel, means the total power of all the vessel’s propulsion engines measured in kW as specified in the certificate of survey or certificate of inspection issued to the vessel in accordance with the provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels)(Safety and Survey) Regulation (Cap. 548 sub.leg.G);

“alternative fuels” (替代燃料) means gases or other low-flashpoint fuels other than conventional fuels and biofuels;

“approved” (核准) means approved by the Director;

“chemical carrier” (化學品運輸船) means any vessel constructed or adapted and used for the carriage in bulk of any liquid product listed in chapter 17 of the IBC Code;

“Director” (處長) means the Director of Marine;

“examiner” (主考人員) means an examiner appointed under section 16(1) of the Ordinance;

“fast speed passenger vessel” (快速客船) means a Class I vessel that has a maximum sustainable speed of above 20 knots in its normal operational conditions and under normal weather and sea condition;

“former certificate” (先前證明書) means a certificate that was -

- (a) issued or deemed to have been issued under the Shipping and Port Control Ordinance (Cap. 313) (including any subsidiary legislation made under that Ordinance); and
- (b) in force immediately before the commencement date of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Local Certificates of Competency) Rules;

“gas carrier” (氣體運輸船) means a cargo ship constructed or adapted and used for the carriage in bulk of any liquefied gas or other products listed in the table of chapter 19 of the 2014 IGC Code;

“gross tonnage” (總噸位) in relation to a local vessel, means the gross tonnage of the vessel as specified in the licence of the vessel;

“Guangdong/Hong Kong mobile fishing vessel” (粵港流動漁船) means a Class III fishing vessel, fish carrier or fishing sampan which is duly registered in a valid Guangdong/Hong Kong/Macau Mobile Fishing Vessel Registration Book issued by the PRC Public Security and Border Patrol Department;

“length” (長度) in relation to a local vessel, means the length as specified in section 2 of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Safety and Survey) Regulation (Cap. 548 sub.leg.G);

“length overall” (總長度), in relation to a local vessel, means the length overall as specified in Section 2 of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Cap. 548);

“licence of a vessel” (船隻牌照), means the “full licence” or “temporary licence” issued to a vessel in accordance with the provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels)(Certification and Licensing) Regulation (Cap. 548 sub.leg.D);

“mechanized vessel” (機動船隻) means a vessel fitted with any propulsion engines;

“medical fitness certificate” (健康證明書) means a certificate issued by a recognized registered medical practitioner in a form specified by the Marine Department or a certificate issued under Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) (Medical Examination) Regulation (Cap. 478 sub.leg.O);

“navigation simulation assessment” (模擬駕駛操作評估) means an assessment of the navigation knowledge by means of simulator approved by Director;

“oil carrier” (石油運輸船) means a motor tanker, or a dumb barge, constructed or adapted for the carriage in bulk of liquid cargoes of a flammable nature (including sludge oil);

“recognized” (認可) means recognized by the Director;

“river trade limits” (內河航限) has the same meaning as specified in the Shipping and Port Control Ordinance (Cap. 313);

“service” (服務年資) for certification or examination means proven service performed within the preceding five years before the date of application for the issue of a local certificate of competency or before the date of examination respectively;

“type rating certificate (TRC)” (類型級別證明書) means a local certificate of competency certifying that the holder of the certificate may man a specific station (such as Coxswain, Assistant Coxswain or Engine Operator) on board a particular class I vessel that is a dynamically supported craft; and

“written examination” (筆試) includes an examination that requires the candidate to read and answer the questions by using a computer.

Chapter 2

Classes of Local Certificates and Type Rating Certificates

2.1 General

Local certificates of competency are issued to both Coxswains and Engine Operators in three Grades as follows-

- (1) Coxswain Certificates
 - (a) Coxswain Grade 3 Certificate
 - (b) Coxswain Grade 2 Certificate
 - (c) Coxswain Grade 1 Certificate
- (2) Engine Operator Certificates
 - (a) Engine Operator Grade 3 Certificate
 - (b) Engine Operator Grade 2 Certificate
 - (c) Engine Operator Grade 1 Certificate

2.2 Coxswain Grade 3 Certificate

“Coxswain Grade 3 Certificate” (船長三級證明書) means a local certificate of competency certifying that the holder of the certificate may act as the coxswain of any local vessel that is-

- (1) not a pleasure vessel;
- (2) of not more than 15 m in length; and
- (3) of not more than 16.5 m in length overall.

2.3 Coxswain Grade 2 Certificate

“Coxswain Grade 2 Certificate” (船長二級證明書) means a local certificate of competency certifying that the holder of the certificate may act as the coxswain of any local vessel that is-

- (1) not a pleasure vessel;
- (2) of not more than 24 m in length; and
- (3) of not more than 26.4 m in length overall.

2.4 Coxswain Grade 1 Certificate

“Coxswain Grade 1 Certificate” (船長一級證明書) means a local certificate of competency certifying that the holder of the certificate may act as the coxswain of any local vessel that is-

- (1) not a pleasure vessel; and
- (2) of gross tonnage not more than 1 600.

2.5 Engine Operator Grade 3 Certificate

“Engine Operator Grade 3 Certificate” (輪機操作員三級證明書) means a local certificate of competency certifying that the holder of the certificate may act as an engine operator of any local vessel that-

- (1) is not a pleasure vessel; and
- (2) has an aggregate power not more than 750 kW.

2.6 Engine Operator Grade 2 Certificate

“Engine Operator Grade 2 Certificate” (輪機操作員二級證明書) means a local certificate of competency certifying that the holder of the certificate may act as an engine operator of any local vessel that-

- (1) is not a pleasure vessel; and
- (2) has an aggregate power not more than 1 500 kW.

2.7 Engine Operator Grade 1 Certificate

“Engine Operator Grade 1 Certificate” (輪機操作員一級證明書) means a local certificate of competency certifying that the holder of the certificate may act as an engine operator of any local vessel that-

- (1) is not a pleasure vessel; and
- (2) has an aggregate power not more than 3 000 kW.

2.8 Application for relaxation of upper limits of a certificate

- 2.8.1 Upon application by the owner of a local vessel, the upper limits in gross tonnage, length, length overall, aggregate power of any local vessel set for each grade of Coxswain Certificates and Engineer Operator Certificates may, in the case of individual vessel and the specified certificated operators, be relaxed at the discretion of the Director subject to such conditions as he may impose in granting the relaxation. Upon receipt of such application, the Director may request the applicant to submit relevant information for consideration. Such relaxation, if given, will be specified in the form of an endorsement on the local certificate of competency of the concerned

Coxswain/Engine Operator.

2.8.2 To grant an endorsement to allow a Coxswain Grade 1 Certificate holder to act as the coxswain of a local vessel that is-

- (1) not a pleasure vessel; and
- (2) of gross tonnage more than 1 600,

a practical examination on board the subject vessel by a local examiner to assess the ability of the concerned Coxswain in commanding the subject vessel is required. The Coxswain must serve on board the vessel or on a similar type of vessel as a member of the deck crew for at least 1 year prior to the assessment.

2.9 Candidate to hold both Coxswain and Engine Operator Certificates

2.9.1 A candidate who holds one of the certificates as Coxswain listed in this chapter may apply for an Engine Operator Certificate if he meets the eligibility criteria of such certificate. The holder of an Engine Operator Certificate as listed in this chapter may apply for a Coxswain Certificate if he meets the eligibility criteria of such certificate.

2.9.2 A person who holds certificates as both Engine Operator and Coxswain may be permitted to control any local vessel, the parameters of which fall within the scope of his certificates, without the presence of another certificated person aboard provided that the vessel in question is approved by the Director as an automated vessel suitable for one man operation. Such approval will be indicated on the vessel's licence document.

2.10 Additional training requirements for vessels with special features

The Director may, at his discretion, specify additional training requirements for persons serving on vessels with special features.

2.11 Type Rating Certificate

A person manning the station of Coxswain or Engine Operator on board any dynamically supported craft (DSC) shall, in addition to the appropriate Coxswain Certificate or Engine Operator Certificate, be required to hold a Type Rating Certificate. Officers manning other stations on a DSC are also required to hold an appropriate Type Rating Certificate if considered necessary by the Director. Full details are contained in Chapter 9.

2.12 Radar Operator Endorsement

A person operating a radar fitted on board a local vessel shall, in addition to the appropriate Coxswain Certificate, be required to hold a Radar Operator Endorsement showing that the holder is competent in the use and operation of radar equipment.

2.13 Endorsement in training for oil carrier cargo operations

- 2.13.1 Crewmember assigned specific duties and responsibilities related to cargo or cargo equipment on oil carriers shall hold an endorsement in training (Basic) for oil carrier cargo operations.
- 2.13.2 Any crewmember with immediate responsibility for loading, discharging, care in transit, handling of cargo, tank cleaning or other cargo-related operations on oil carriers shall hold an endorsement in training (Advanced) for oil carrier cargo operations.

2.14 Endorsement in training for chemical carrier cargo operations

- 2.14.1 Crewmember assigned specific duties and responsibilities related to cargo or cargo equipment on chemical carriers shall hold an endorsement in training (Basic) for chemical carrier cargo operations.
- 2.14.2 Any crewmember with immediate responsibility for loading, discharging, care in transit, handling of cargo, tank cleaning or other cargo-related operations on chemical carriers shall hold an endorsement in training (Advanced) for chemical carrier cargo operations.

2.15 Endorsement in training for gas carrier cargo operations

- 2.15.1 Crewmember assigned specific duties and responsibilities related to cargo or cargo equipment on gas carriers shall hold an endorsement in training (Basic) for gas carrier cargo operations.
- 2.15.2 Any crewmember with immediate responsibility for loading, discharging, care in transit, handling of cargo, tank cleaning or other cargo-related operations on gas carriers shall hold an endorsement in training (Advanced) for gas carrier cargo operations.

2.16 Endorsement in training for service on vessels using alternative fuels

- 2.16.1 Crewmember responsible for designated safety duties associated with the care, use or in emergency response to the fuel on board vessels using alternative fuels shall hold an endorsement in training (Basic) for vessels using alternative fuels.
- 2.16.2 Any crewmember with immediate responsibility for the care and use of fuels and fuel systems on vessels using alternative fuels shall hold an endorsement in training (Advanced) for vessels using alternative fuels.

Chapter 3

Eligibility Criteria for Each Grade of Certificate

3.1 Coxswain Grade 3 Certificate

3.1.1 To be eligible for the application for the examination of a Coxswain Grade 3 Certificate an applicant must-

- (1) be at least 18 years of age;
- (2) provide a valid medical fitness certificate (Marine Department Form MD 818) ***[This requirement will be implemented from 30 June 2025];***
- (3) provide the Declaration Form for Service Onboard Local Vessel (Marine Department Form MD 685) in order to verify for meeting any one of the following requirements-
 - (a) a minimum of 9 months of service in any deck or engineering capacity in any mechanized vessels other than pleasure vessels, or
 - (b) a minimum of 18 months' service on non-mechanized cargo vessels, or
 - (c) a minimum of 18 months' service on pleasure vessels whilst holding any type of pleasure vessel certificate of competency;
- (4) reach the eyesight standard described in Chapter 4 of these Rules; and
- (5) be able to prove to have attended a maritime course recognized by the Director prior to Coxswain Grade 3 Certificate examination.

3.1.2 To be eligible for the issue of a Coxswain Grade 3 Certificate, an applicant must pass the Coxswain Grade 3 Examination described in paragraph 6.1.1 and paragraph 7.1 of these Rules, and have completed in-service training according to the above paragraphs 3.1.1(3)(a) to (c). The in-service training records shall be conformed to a proper document as prescribed by the Director (Marine Department Form MD 701).

3.1.3 Notwithstanding the requirements stipulated in paragraph 3.1.1(3)(a) to (c), the applicant can sit for the examination upon completing the recognized maritime course as stipulated in paragraph 3.1.1(5). However, in order to attain the Coxswain Grade 3 Certificate, he ought to have fulfilled sea service requirement and completed the in-service training programme.

3.2 Coxswain Grade 2 Certificate

3.2.1 To be eligible for the issue of a Coxswain Grade 2 Certificate an applicant must-

- (1) be at least 19 years of age;
- (2) provide a valid medical fitness certificate (Marine Department Form MD 818) ***[This requirement will be implemented from 30 June 2025];***
- (3) be able to prove to have:
 - (a) a minimum of 1 year service on board as a member of the deck crew of

- a local vessel whilst holding a Coxswain Grade 3 Certificate in any local vessels other than pleasure vessels; or
 - (b) completion of a recognized, continuous, in service training course on commercial vessels of not less than 2 years;
 - (4) pass the Coxswain Grade 2 Examination described in paragraph 6.2 and paragraph 7.2 of these Rules; and
 - (5) reach the eyesight standard described in Chapter 4 of these Rules.
- 3.2.2 An applicant will also be eligible for the issue of a Coxswain Grade 2 Certificate if he meets the criteria specified in paragraphs 3.2.1(1), 3.2.1(2) and 3.2.1(5) and holds the following certificates-
- (1) a Local Certificate of Competency as Master (60 Tons and under) issued under the provisions of the Shipping and Port Control Ordinance, Cap. 313; or
 - (2) a valid Hong Kong seagoing or river trade Class 3 certificate of competency (Deck Officer) issued under the provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) (Certification of Officers) Regulation (Cap. 478 sub.leg.J), or a recognized equivalent certificate of competency for deck officer issued by a foreign administration, and passes a local knowledge examination.

3.3 Coxswain Grade 1 Certificate

- 3.3.1 To be eligible for the issue of a Coxswain Grade 1 Certificate an applicant must-
- (1) be at least 20 years of age;
 - (2) provide a valid medical fitness certificate (Marine Department Form MD 818) ***[This requirement will be implemented from 30 June 2025];***
 - (3) hold the following recognized course certificates issued by an approved training establishment-
 - (a) Personal Survival Techniques (Local Craft), or equivalent certificate
 - (b) Elementary First Aid and Proficiency in Medical First Aid (Combined), or equivalent certificate
 - (c) Fire Fighting (Local Craft), or equivalent certificate;
 - (4) be able to prove a minimum of 1 year of service on board local vessels, other than pleasure vessels, in the position of Coxswain or Assistant Coxswain. This year of service must be obtained while holding a Coxswain Grade 2 Certificate or a 60 Tons and under Master Certificate of Competency (see also paragraph 3.3.2) and at least six months of the time must be shown to have been spent in service aboard vessels greater than 15 m in length;
 - (5) have already passed the Coxswain Grade 2 Examination described in paragraph 6.2 and paragraph 7.2 of these Rules;
 - (6) reach the eyesight standard described in Chapter 4 of these Rules; and
 - (7) complete a navigation simulation assessment. If he is not able to prove that he has completed the navigation simulation assessment, the certificate issued will have an endorsement specifying that “the holder of this certificate is not allowed to operate a Class I vessel of more than 24 m in length or 26.4 m in length overall”.
- 3.3.2 The holder of a Local Certificate of Competency as Master (60 tons and under), or a

Coxswain Grade 2 Certificate who has obtained his Grade 2 Certificate on the basis of previously holding a Local Certificate of Competency as Master (60 Tons and under) or Fishing Vessel Master (without restriction or condition) will be eligible for a Coxswain Grade 1 Certificate if he meets the requirements specified in paragraphs 3.3.1(1), 3.3.1(2), 3.3.1(3), 3.3.1(4) and 3.3.1(6) and also passes Part A of the Coxswain Grade 2 Examination described in paragraph 6.2 and paragraph 7.2 of these Rules. He will not be required to be examined in the oral part of the examination. A failure in this examination will not affect his existing Coxswain Grade 2 Certificate, 60 tons and under Master certificate or Fishing Vessel Master Certificate.

3.3.3 The service experience in paragraph 3.3.1(4) above must have been performed within Hong Kong waters.

3.3.4 An applicant will also be eligible for the issue of a Coxswain Grade 1 Certificate if he meets the criteria specified in paragraphs 3.3.1(1), 3.3.1(2) and 3.3.1(6) and holds the following certificates:-

- (1) a Local Certificate of Competency as Master (300 Tons and under) issued under the provisions of the Shipping and Port Control Ordinance, Cap. 313; or
- (2) a certificate of competency as Trawling Master; or
- (3) a valid Hong Kong seagoing or river trade Class 2 or Class 1 certificate of competency (Deck Officer) issued under the provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) (Certification of Officers) Regulation (Cap. 478 sub.leg.J), or a recognized equivalent certificate of competency for deck officer issued by a foreign administration, and passes a local knowledge examination.

3.4 Engine Operator Grade 3 Certificate

3.4.1 To be eligible for the issue of an Engine Operator Grade 3 Certificate an applicant must-

- (1) be at least 18 years of age;
- (2) provide a valid medical fitness certificate (Marine Department Form MD 818) [***This requirement will be implemented from 30 June 2025***];
- (3) provide the Declaration Form for Service Onboard Local Vessel (Marine Department Form MD 685) in order to verify to meet any one of the following requirements-
 - (a)
 - (i) a minimum of 1 year of service in any deck or engineering capacity in any mechanized vessel other than pleasure vessels; or
 - (ii) the sea service requirement be reduced to 9 months if the applicant has satisfactorily completed a maritime course recognized by the Director; or
 - (b)
 - (i) two years' service on pleasure vessels whilst holding any type of pleasure vessel certificate; or
 - (ii) the sea service requirement be reduced to 18 months if the applicant has satisfactorily completed a maritime course recognized by the Director; or
 - (c) served a recognized apprenticeship as a fitter or as a mechanic for remission of all or part of the service; and
- (4) pass the Engine Operator Grade 3 Examination described in paragraph 6.4 and

paragraph 7.3 of these Rules.

3.4.2 Notwithstanding the requirements stipulated in paragraph 3.4.1(3)(a) to (c), an applicant is eligible to apply for the examination any time prior to fulfilling the sea service requirement or commencing the maritime preparatory course. However, in order to attain the Engine Operator Grade 3 Certificate, he ought to have fulfilled sea service requirement and have passed the examination.

3.4.3 An applicant will also be eligible for the issue of an Engine Operator Grade 3 Certificate if he meets the requirement specified in paragraphs 3.4.1(1), 3.4.1(2) and holds the following certificates-

- (1) a Local Certificate of Competency as Engineer (up to 150 BHP) issued under the provisions of the Shipping and Port Control Ordinance, Cap. 313; or
- (2) a Fishing Vessel Engineer Certificate (without restriction or condition) issued under the provisions of the Shipping and Port Control Ordinance, Cap. 313.

3.5 Engine Operator Grade 2 Certificate

3.5.1 To be eligible for the issue of an Engine Operator Grade 2 Certificate an applicant must-

- (1) be at least 19 years of age;
- (2) provide a valid medical fitness certificate (Marine Department Form MD 818) ***[This requirement will be implemented from 30 June 2025];***
- (3) be able to prove to have either:-
 - (a) a minimum of 1 year service in any engineering capacity whilst holding an Engine Operator Grade 3 Certificate in any vessel other than pleasure vessels; or
 - (b) served a recognized apprenticeship as a fitter or as a mechanic and at least 1 year of service in any vessel other than pleasure vessels, of which at least 6 months was spent engaged in duties associated with the propulsion machinery of the vessel; and
- (4) pass the Engine Operator Grade 2 Examination described in paragraph 6.5 and paragraph 7.4 of these Rules.

3.6 Engine Operator Grade 1 Certificate

3.6.1 To be eligible for the issue of an Engine Operator Grade 1 Certificate an applicant must-

- (1) be at least 20 years of age;
- (2) provide a valid medical fitness certificate (Marine Department Form MD 818) ***[This requirement will be implemented from 30 June 2025];***
- (3) hold the following recognized course certificates issued by an approved training establishment-
 - (a) Personal Survival Techniques (Local Craft), or equivalent certificate
 - (b) Elementary First Aid and Proficiency in Medical First Aid (Combined), or equivalent certificate

- (c) Fire Fighting (Local Craft), or equivalent certificate
 - (4) be able to prove to have a minimum of 1 year of service while holding an Engine Operator Grade 2 Certificate in vessels other than pleasure vessels, with power greater than 750 kW; and
 - (5) have previously passed the Engine Operator Grade 2 Examination described in paragraph 6.5 of these Rules.
- 3.6.2 An applicant will also be eligible for an Engine Operator Grade 1 Certificate if he meets the criteria in paragraphs 3.6.1(1) and 3.6.1(2) above; and holds the following certificates-
- (1) a Local Certificate of Competency as Engineer (over 150 BHP) issued under the provisions of the Shipping and Port Control Ordinance, Cap. 313; or
 - (2) a Local Certificate of Competency as Ferry Vessel Engineer issued under the provisions of the Shipping and Port Control Ordinance, Cap. 313; or
 - (3) any valid Hong Kong seagoing or river trade certificate of competency (Marine Engineer Officer) issued under the provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) (Certification of Officers) Regulation (Cap. 478 sub.leg.J), or a recognized equivalent foreign certificate of competency as Marine Engineer Officer.

3.7 Radar Operator Endorsement

- 3.7.1 To be eligible for the issue of a Radar Operator Endorsement an applicant must-
- (1) have already obtained any grade coxswain certificate or equivalent; and
 - (2) be able to prove to have attended a radar operator course recognized by the Director or equivalent (i.e. course of radar navigation at operational level, or management level under STCW Code A-II/1, A-II/2 recognized by a party of STCW Convention).

3.8 Endorsement in training for oil carrier cargo operations

- 3.8.1 For endorsement in training (Basic) for oil carrier cargo operations, the applicant has successfully completed the approval training (Basic) course for oil carrier cargo operations; or hold a certificate of proficiency in basic training for oil and chemical tanker cargo operations recognized by the Director.
- 3.8.2 For endorsement in training (Advanced) for oil carrier cargo operations, the applicant has successfully completed the approval training (Advanced) course for oil carrier cargo operations and has at least one month of approved onboard training on oil carriers, which includes at least three loading and three unloading operations; or hold a certificate of proficiency in advanced training for oil tanker cargo operations recognized by the Director.

3.9 Endorsement in training for chemical carrier cargo operations

- 3.9.1 For endorsement in training (Basic) for chemical carrier cargo operations, the applicant has successfully completed the approval training (Basic) course for chemical carrier cargo operations; or hold a certificate of proficiency in basic training for oil and

chemical tanker cargo operations recognized by the Director.

- 3.9.2 For endorsement in training (Advanced) for chemical carrier cargo operations, the applicant has successfully completed the approval training (Advanced) course for chemical carrier cargo operations and has at least one month of approved onboard training on chemical carriers, which includes at least three loading and three unloading operations; or hold a certificate of proficiency in advanced training for chemical tanker cargo operations recognized by the Director.

3.10 Endorsement in training for gas carrier cargo operations

- 3.10.1 For endorsement in training (Basic) for gas carrier cargo operations, the applicant has successfully completed the approval training (Basic) course for gas carrier cargo operations; or hold a certificate of proficiency in basic training for liquefied gas tanker cargo operations recognized by the Director.
- 3.10.2 For endorsement in training (Advanced) for gas carrier cargo operations, the applicant has successfully completed the approval training (Advanced) course for gas carrier cargo operations and has at least one month of approved onboard training on gas carriers, which includes at least three loading and three unloading operations; or hold a certificate of proficiency in advanced training for liquefied gas tanker cargo operations recognized by the Director.

3.11 Endorsement in training for service on vessels using alternative fuels

- 3.11.1 For endorsement in training (Basic) for vessels using alternative fuels, the applicant has successfully completed the approval training (Basic) course for vessels using alternative fuels; or hold a certificate of proficiency in basic training for service on ships using alternative fuels recognized by the Director.
- 3.11.2 For endorsement in training (Advanced) for vessels using alternative fuels, the applicant has successfully completed the approval training (Advanced) course for vessels using alternative fuels and has at least one month of approved onboard training on vessels using alternative fuels, which includes a minimum of three bunkering operations on board vessels using alternative fuels; or hold an certificate of proficiency in advanced training for service on ships using alternative fuels the recognized by the Director.

Chapter 4

Eyesight Standards for Coxswains

4.1 The eyesight standards for coxswains are as follows-

		Eyesight Standards
Distant Vision with or without visual aid	Better eye Other eye	6/9 6/12
Near, Intermediate and colour vision, both eyes together, aided or unaided		Vision required for ship's navigation (e.g. chart and nautical publication reference, use of bridge instrumentation and equipment, identification of navigation aids)
Visual fields		Normal visual fields
Night Blindness		Vision required to perform all necessary functions in darkness without compromise
Diplopia (double vision)		No significant condition evident

4.2 Colour vision will be tested by Ishihara plates or equivalent.

4.3 All applicants for Coxswain's Certificate of any grade (including new issue and extension) are required to provide a certificate (Marine Department Form MD 688) (<https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/forms/pdf/md688.pdf>) issued by a registered medical practitioner or registered optometrist (either Part I or Part II optometrist) attesting to the applicant having attained the standards in paragraph 4.1 above within the 24 months (12 months in respect of an applicant 65 years of age and over) preceding the application will be accepted, the certificate shall remain valid at the time of examination (not applicable to extension).

4.4 If the examiner is in doubt of the eyesight standard of an applicant, he may request the applicant to produce an eyesight test certificate signed by another registered practitioner or registered optometrist (either Part I or Part II optometrist) on the expenses of the applicant or refer the applicant to the Hong Kong Eye Hospital for examination.

4.5 Any applicant or candidate who requires visual aids for passing the eyesight test in paragraphs 4.1 above, his Coxswain's Certificate will be specified as "with visual aids".

Chapter 5

Applications, Examination Procedures and General Provisions

5.1 Applications

5.1.1 Applications for examination or certificates should be made to:

River Trade and Local Examination Section
Marine Department
3/F Harbour Building
38 Pier Road
Central
Hong Kong

5.1.2 Each application should be made on an appropriate application form, which is available from the above address, or at the Marine Department's website www.mardep.gov.hk and should be accompanied by-

- (1) proof of identity (Hong Kong Identity Card or other document acceptable to MD) with copy of the submitted document;
- (2) copy of medical fitness certificate [***This requirement will be implemented from 30 June 2025***];
- (3) completed "Declaration Form for Service Onboard Local Vessel" (Marine Department Form MD685) or other evidence of service in the amount required;
- (4) the specified fee in relation to the application;
- (5) proof of having passed the relevant examination if applicable with copy of the submitted document;
- (6) certificates of recognized training courses if applicable with copy of the submitted document;
- (7) original copy of eyesight test certificate (Marine Department Form MD 688), if applicable;
- (8) for application of Coxswain Grade 3 Certificate examination, certificate of a maritime course recognized by the Director and in-service training records with copy of the submitted document; and
- (9) a recent passport size photo.

5.1.3 Applicants may provide proof of sea service by submitting a "Declaration Form for Service Onboard Local Vessel" or other related document. Copies of forms are available from the River Trade and Local Examination Section, or the Marine Department's website: www.mardep.gov.hk. The forms require that both the applicant and the registered owner of the vessel on which service is claimed should attest to the correctness of the information contained on it by signature. An applicant may apply for examination three months before acquiring the required sea service on the examination date. If advanced application is made, the applicant's proof of sea service should be submitted to the Marine Department one month before the date of examination for verification. The remaining sea service proof should be submitted to

the Marine Department on the examination day for checking. In case applicants fail to submit the document/proof as required or could not take the examinations after submitting their applications, their examination fee will not be refunded.

- 5.1.4 Applicants are reminded that it is an offence to provide false information on a “Declaration Form for Service Onboard Local Vessel” and that both the applicant and the signing owner may be liable to prosecution in the event that false information is supplied.

5.2 Examination Procedures

5.2.1 Competency Examinations

- (1) A person may not take a competency examination unless the person has paid the specified fee in relation to that examination.
- (2) The subjects to be taken in a competency examination and the standard of competency to be attained in order to pass the examination shall be as set out in Chapter 6 (Examinations) and Chapter 7 (Examination Syllabuses) of these examination rules.
- (3) A competency examination shall be conducted in accordance with these examination rules.

5.2.2 Punctuality

Candidates must appear punctually for the examination at the time on the date at the place specified by the Director in the relevant receipt of examination fee or notification of examination.

5.2.3 Failure to attend an Examination without Prior Notice of Cancellation or Postponement

If a candidate fails to appear punctually for the examination at the time, on the date, and at the place specified by the Director in the relevant receipt of examination fee or notification of examination,

- (1) he will be regarded as having failed the examination;
- (2) no part of the fee paid by the candidate in respect of the examination shall be refunded;
- (4) his next appointments will be arranged to the last appointment date of his specific examination type; and
- (5) no further postponement/bringing forward arrangement will be allowed, unless –
 - (a) the candidate has notified the Director in accordance with paragraph 5.2.4(1); or
 - (b) the candidate produces a medical certificate issued by a registered medical practitioner certifying his inability to attend the examination within two weeks of the scheduled examination date; or
 - (c) the Director is satisfied that the candidate was unable to attend the examination due to circumstances which was beyond his control.

5.2.4 Cancellation or Amendment of the Examination Date

- (1) Subject to sub-paragraph 5.2.4(3), a candidate may cancel, postpone or bring forward the taking of an examination by advising the Director by written notice that must be received by the Director at least 10 working days before the day appointed for the examination.
- (2) Any fee paid in respect of such cancelled examination shall either be refunded to the candidate on return of the original payment receipt or, if so requested by him, be held to his credit for a future examination.
- (3) Only one postponement/bringing forward arrangement of an examination will be permitted unless there are exceptional circumstances warranting a second postponement or bringing forward of an examination date.

5.2.5 Cancellation of Examination by Director

- (1) The Director shall not permit a candidate to take any examination under these rules unless he is satisfied that the candidate –
 - (a) is eligible to take the examination; and
 - (b) is the person in respect of whom the application for the examination has been made.
- (2) If before the commencement, or during the course, of an examination, the Director becomes aware that any candidate has any physical or other disability which in his opinion would render the candidate incapable of performing the duties of a coxswain or engine operator of a local vessel or an operator of a pleasure vessel, as the case may be, the Director shall not permit the candidate to take or complete the examination.
- (3) Where the Director does not permit a candidate to take or complete an examination under sub-paragraph (1) and (2) –
 - (a) he shall state his reasons on the candidate's application form; and
 - (b) the fee paid by the candidate shall be refunded.
- (4) In the event of a candidate failing the sight test which is conducted as part of a competency examination, he is not permitted to take the remaining part of the examination. The balance of the relevant fees paid for the examination, less the fee for sight test as specified in item 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Local Certificates of Competency) Rules, will be refunded to the candidate.

5.2.6 Proof of Identity

Candidates when appearing for examination must produce to the examiner or his deputy a Hong Kong Identity Card, or other acceptable proof of identity.

5.2.7 Strangers Not Admitted

No persons other than candidates and those whose duties require them to be present will be allowed in the examination room during the examination.

5.2.8 Loose Papers and Books

Before the examination begins, the examiner will ensure that the tables and desks are cleared of all scraps of paper and books (other than those permitted in the examination room).

5.2.9 Leaving Examination Room

- (1) Candidates who have completed the examination and wants to leave the examination room before the ending of examination shall-
 - (a) sign off the examination from his computer terminal if computer is used for the examination; and
 - (b) report to the examiner or his deputy and request permission to leave the examination room.
- (2) After request is approved by the examiner or his deputy, the candidate can then submit his question and answer papers (if applicable), and other documents or equipment provided to him for examination use to the examiner.
- (3) A candidate who fails to surrender all papers, documents and equipment will be regarded as having failed the examination AND will not be allowed to present himself for re-examination for 6 months. No candidate will be allowed to leave the examination room during the first 20 minutes after the examination commences.
- (4) Candidate shall not copy the examination questions and take them away from the examination room. Offenders will be regarded as having failed the examination.

5.2.10 Silence

Silence must be observed in the examination room.

5.2.11 Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal and Black Rainstorm Signal

If, at 6:00 a.m. on the examination date, Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 8 or above and/or the Black Rainstorm Signal has/have been issued by the Hong Kong Observatory and is still in force, all morning examination sessions on that day will be cancelled. If, at 11:30 a.m. on the examination date, Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 8 or above and/or the Black Rainstorm Signal has/have been issued by the Hong Kong Observatory and is still in force, all afternoon examination sessions on that day will be cancelled. Candidates should approach the River Trade and Local Examination Section as soon as possible for re-scheduling of examinations.

5.3 **Penalty for Misbehaviour during Examination**

- (1) During the course of an examination, any candidate who is discovered –
 - (a) referring to an unauthorized book or paper;
 - (b) copying from another person;
 - (c) giving assistance or information to another person;
 - (d) accepting assistance or information from another person;
 - (e) communicating in any way with any person other than the examiner or his deputy;
 - (f) making a copy of any part of the question paper to take out of the examination room;
 - (g) damaging or defacing any examination documents or equipment provided; or
 - (h) Carrying any unauthorized items including any instrument / equipment / tool that has the function of recording audio and/or video, or any other

form of recording function, whether or not the aforementioned devices are in operation,

will be regarded as having failed the examination and will not be allowed to present himself for re-examination for a period of 12 months.

- (2) If a candidate contravenes any misbehaviour specified in paragraph 5.3 (1) on more than one occasion will not be allowed to present himself for re-examination until 24 months have elapsed from the date of the last contravention.

5.4 Penalty for Breach of Rules

Where the Director is satisfied that a candidate has contravened these rules, or has been guilty of insolence to an examiner, or of disorderly or improper conduct in or about the examination room, the Director may postpone the candidate's examination, or, if the candidate has attempted the examination, he will be considered to have failed and will not be accepted for re-examination for such period as may be decided by the Director.

5.5 Notification of Examination Results and Issue of Certificates

- 5.5.1 Candidates will receive a letter advising them of their success or failure also, for successful candidates, when their certificate is available for collection at the Marine Department River Trade and Local Examination Section. This letter should be produced when collecting the certificate, or in the case of unsuccessful candidates when making application for a further examination.
- 5.5.2 Certificates may be collected by persons other than the successful candidate. However, such person must also produce a letter of authorization which includes the name and the identity card number of the person collecting the certificate.

5.6 Schedule for Re-examination

Candidates who fail in an examination and apply re-examination for the same grade of certificate may only apply for a schedule not earlier than one month from their previous attempts.

5.7 Review of Examination Results

- 5.7.1 Any candidate who has failed an examination and is aggrieved by the result of the examination may within 30 days of being informed of his result, request in writing the Director to review the result.
- 5.7.2 A request for review shall be accompanied by the fee as specified in Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Local Certificates of Competency) Rules.
- 5.7.3 Upon receipt of a request under sub-paragraph (2), the Director shall review the examination result to which the request relates and notify the candidate of his decision as soon as practicable.
- 5.7.4 If upon review of the examination result the Director decides that the candidate should be considered to have passed the examination, the fee paid under sub-paragraph (2) shall be refunded to the candidate.

5.8 Handicap

- 5.8.1 Candidates are required to declare if they have any physical disability in the examination application form. Candidates with handicapped condition which may affect the discharge of their duty as certificate holder are required to attain an assessment to ascertain their eligibility for the examination.
- 5.8.2 If in the course of any examination, the examiner finds that a candidate is afflicted with deafness, an impediment of speech, or with some other physical or mental handicap which he considers sufficient to render the candidate incapable of discharging adequately the ordinary duties of an operator of a vessel, he will not allow the candidate to complete the examination and he will make arrangement for the refund of the examination fee.
- 5.8.3 If such a candidate subsequently produces a medical certificate to the effect that the particular handicap has been overcome or has been improved or that the candidate's condition is now normal, the Director will reconsider the candidate for examination.

5.9 Bribery

Any applicant who offers an advantage to any officer of the Marine Department shall be guilty of an offence under the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine and imprisonment. Such an applicant will not be re-examined for such a period as may be decided by the Director.

Chapter 6

Examinations

6.1 Coxswain Grade 3 Examination

- 6.1.1 This examination is a written examination and consists of 30 multiple choice questions for examinations. The examination syllabus is specified in paragraph 7.1 of these Rules. The passing mark is 60% and time allowed for the examination is 50 minutes. This examination may be conducted with an interactive computer system.
- 6.1.2 A candidate who claims to be illiterate and hence unable to sit for the written examination specified in paragraph 6.1.1 will be allowed to take the examination in oral form upon presenting evidence in the form of a letter from an employer or other acceptable evidence of his illiteracy. Candidates opting for this approach may be required, at the discretion of the Director, to attend at one of the Marine Department District Offices to undergo a practical test of ability.
- 6.1.3 For the practical test, the candidate is required to arrange a suitable boat, which is at all time being taken charge by a qualified coxswain and an engine operator while the boat is underway in Hong Kong waters.

6.2 Coxswain Grade 2 Examination

- 6.2.1 This examination is in two parts:-
- | | |
|--------|------------------------------------|
| Part A | a practical chart work examination |
| Part B | an oral examination |
- The practical chart work examination in Part A will take one hour and fifty minutes, the oral examination in Part B will take one hour.
- 6.2.2 The examinations for Part A and Part B may be taken separately. The passing mark is 70% for the practical chart work examination. Candidate must pass the practical chart work examination (Part A) and the oral part (Part B) of the examination within a two years period to retain the validity of a pass in either part.
- 6.2.3 Candidates who obtain their Grade 2 Certificates will not be eligible for upgrading to Grade 1 Certificate without passing the Coxswain Grade 2 Part A examination, i.e. a practical chart work examination.

6.3 Coxswain Grade 1 Examination

- 6.3.1 There is no examination for this certificate. Candidates who meet the eligibility criteria set out in Chapter 3 and who have previously passed Part A and Part B of the examination for Coxswain Grade 2 will be issued with a Coxswain Grade 1 certificate. Candidates who have obtained a Coxswain Grade 2 Certificate only by recognition of a Local Certificate of Competency as Master (60 Tons and under) or Fishing Vessel Master (without restriction or condition) issued under the provisions of the Shipping and Port Control Ordinance, Cap. 313 will not be eligible for a Coxswain Grade 1 Certificate until such time as they have passed the Coxswain Grade 2 Part A examination, i.e. a practical chart work examination.

6.4 Engine Operator Grade 3 Examination

- 6.4.1 This examination is a written examination and consists of 40 multiple choice questions. The passing mark is 60% and time allowed for the examination is 60 minutes. This examination may be conducted with an interactive computer system.
- 6.4.2 A candidate who claims to be illiterate and hence unable to attempt the written examination will be allowed to take the same examination in an oral form upon production of evidence in the form of a letter from his employer or other acceptable evidence of illiteracy. Candidates opting for this approach may be required, at the discretion of the Director, to attend at one of the Marine Department District Offices to undergo a practical test of ability.
- 6.4.3 For the practical test, the candidate is required to arrange a suitable boat, which is at all time being taken charge by a qualified coxswain and an engine operator while the boat is underway in Hong Kong waters.

6.5 Engine Operator Grade 2 Examination

- 6.5.1 This examination is a written examination and consists of 40 multiple choice questions. The passing mark is 60% and the time allowed for the examination is 90 minutes. This examination may be conducted with an interactive computer system.
- 6.5.2 In exceptional cases, and only at the discretion of the Director, candidates unable to take the written examination through illiteracy may be permitted to sit for the examination in an oral form.

6.6 Engine Operator Grade 1 Examination

- 6.1.1 There is no examination for this certificate. Candidates who have previously passed the Engine Operator Grade 2 Examination and meet the eligibility criteria set out in paragraph 3.6 of these Rules will be issued with an Engine Operator Grade 1 Certificate.

Chapter 7

Examination Syllabuses

7.1 Coxswain Grade 3 Examination

Local Knowledge and Pilotage

- (1) Limits of Sheltered Waters, precautions to be taken when proceeding beyond sheltered waters.
- (2) Main fairways and Traffic Separation Schemes. Rules governing their use and the conduct of small vessels in them.
- (3) Speed and other restrictions applicable in typhoon shelters and in Victoria Harbour.
- (4) Prohibited anchorages, restricted anchorages and restricted areas.
- (5) Rules governing the use of Public Piers.
- (6) The Ma-Wan Channel traffic light, its purpose and the action to be taken in response to its signals.
- (7) Basic knowledge of environmental protection legislation.
- (8) The requirement for reporting accidents and the method of reporting.
- (9) The meaning of important/essential international and port signals by flag, light or sound.
- (10) Knowledge of the buoyage system in use in Hong Kong waters.
- (11) Knowledge of the significance of storm signals and sources of information.

International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea

- (12) Candidates are expected to have a sound knowledge of Parts A, B, C, D and Appendixes of these Regulations as applicable to the marine traffic encountered in Hong Kong with particular regard to:-
 - (i) lights and shapes carried by vessels;
 - (ii) meaning and importance of proper lookout and safe speed;
 - (iii) methods of ascertaining risk of collision and the proper use of Radar;
 - (iv) Steering and Sailing rules and the action to be taken in typical encounter situations;
 - (v) Conduct of vessels in restricted visibility;
 - (vi) Manoeuvring and fog sound signals; and
 - (vii) Distress signals with particular emphasis to those signals which might be used by small craft.

Seamanship and Basic Engine Knowledge

- (13) Safe mooring practices, man-overboard procedures, handling precautions and procedures in bad weather.
- (14) Dangers involved in navigating close to large vessels whether anchored or

underway.

- (15) Precautions to be observed when navigating in areas where approaching vessels may not be observed, at breakwaters and headlands etc.
- (16) Basic pre-departure and pre-starting checks and precautions for typical small craft engines.
- (17) Significance of common engine instrument readings, temperature, oil pressure, RPM, and the consequences of any of them indicating readings outside normal limits. Action to be taken in the event of abnormal engine indications.
- (18) Hazards of oil fuel and precautions to be taken in filling tanks and storing and handling fuel. Basics of fuel supply systems and the rectification of common faults.
- (19) Safe battery handling and the care and maintenance of batteries.
- (20) Typical hydraulic steering systems and the restoration of steering function in the event of a fault.
- (21) Action to be taken in the event of collision, grounding, fire or flooding.
- (22) Safety of children aboard small craft.
- (23) Use of life saving and fire fighting appliances carried aboard small craft.
- (24) Basic understanding of the terms stable, unstable and neutral equilibrium. Stiff and tender and indications in practice of an unstable condition.
- (25) Safe handling of LPG installation aboard small craft.

7.2 Coxswain Grade 2 Examination

Part A (Practical Chart Work Examination)

Chart Work and Pilotage

This topic covers the ability to use navigational charts in planning and executing a passage in Hong Kong waters.

- (1) Knowledge of important chart symbols and chart correction.
- (2) To express a position on a chart in terms of latitude and longitude or bearing and distance from a charted object. Given the latitude and longitude, or bearing and distance from a charted object, to plot the position on a chart.
- (3) To find the compass course and distance between 2 positions, and, given the vessel's speed, to calculate the estimated time of arrival (ETA).
- (4) The ability to lay off safe courses avoiding navigational dangers.
- (5) To find the compass course to steer to make allowance for leeway and/or current so as to achieve a specified course made good.
- (6) Use of tide tables and tidal information on charts for Hong Kong waters.
- (7) Given a table of deviations to convert true courses to compass courses and vice versa.
- (8) Given compass courses steered and distances run, to work up the dead reckoning (DR) position without wind, current affecting by plotting on the chart.
- (9) Given compass course steered, the speed of the vessel and the direction and

rate of the current, to find the course and speed made good over the ground (ground track angle).

- (10) Given compass course steered, distances run or speed of ship and time intervals, direction and rate of current and leeway allowance, to find the estimated position (EP) by plotting on a chart.
- (11) To fix the vessel's position on a chart by simultaneous cross bearings, transferred position lines, bearings and ranges.
- (12) To find the vessel's approximate position from a line of soundings.
- (13) Use of clearing lines and transits.

PART B (Oral Examination)

Candidates must understand and give satisfactory answers on the following subjects:-

Collision Regulations, Buoyage and Emergencies

- (1) A thorough knowledge of Parts A, B, C, & D and Appendixes of the International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea as applicable to the types of marine traffic commonly found in Hong Kong.
- (2) The system of buoyage adopted in Hong Kong waters and its use.
- (3) The actions to be taken in the event of grounding, collision, fire or flooding.
- (4) Distress signals, their purpose and use.
- (5) Abandon ship procedures.
- (6) Use of Navigational aids (including Radar).

Local Knowledge, Pilotage, and Port Regulations

- (7) Limits of sheltered waters and the precautions to be observed when proceeding beyond sheltered limits.
- (8) Main Fairways and Traffic Separation Schemes in Hong Kong waters and the Rules governing their use and the proper conduct of ALL vessels using them and navigating in their vicinity.
- (9) Speed and other restrictions applicable in typhoon shelters and in Victoria Harbour.
- (10) Prohibited anchorages, restricted anchorages and restricted areas.
- (11) Rules governing the use of Public Piers and Typhoon Shelters.
- (12) The Ma-Wan Channel traffic light, its purpose, and the action to be taken in response to the different signals displayed.
- (13) Penalties for the dumping of refuse into or pollution of the waters of Hong Kong.
- (14) Towing restrictions in Hong Kong harbour.
- (15) The rules governing lying alongside vessels berthed in the harbour or lying at harbour mooring buoys. The Rules applicable to the use of harbour mooring buoys.
- (16) Important local and international signals, including storm signals, in common use in Hong Kong.
- (17) The requirement to report accidents and the method of making reports.

- (18) Sources of navigational warnings and other notices affecting navigation in Hong Kong waters.
- (19) Knowledge on the use of VHF radio channels.

Ship Stability

- (20) Basic understanding of the terms stable, unstable, and neutral equilibrium. Stiff and tender, indications in practice of an unstable condition.
- (21) Effects of a free surface of liquid on stability. The causes of Free Surface Effect. The importance of freeing ports and scuppers in avoiding Free Surface Effect. The dangers of unsecured loads.
- (22) The effects, without calculation, of adding, removing and shifting weights on board a vessel on the stability of the vessel.
- (23) The effects on stability, without calculation, of lifting weights with a vessel's own lifting gear.
- (24) Loadline marks and the dangers of overloading.
- (25) The effects of a loss of buoyancy and the need to maintain watertight integrity, the use of closing appliances.
- (26) The dangers of an excessive trim.

Seamanship and Shiphandling

- (27) General principles of ship handling.
- (28) Methods of ascertaining risk of collision and the proper use of Radar.
- (29) Actions to be taken in the event of encountering heavy weather or if disabled.
- (30) Rescuing a man overboard.
- (31) Preparation of anchors for use, selection of an anchorage, anchoring procedures, tending a vessel at anchor and the causes and effects of dragging an anchor and the actions to be taken.
- (32) Towing and being towed, preparations for and safe practices.
- (33) Dangers of navigating close to large vessels whether underway or moored.
- (34) Procedures for summoning assistance in Hong Kong and the agencies and organisation responsible for providing rescue services in Hong Kong, emergency communications.
- (35) Preparations and procedures on the approach of a tropical storm.
- (36) The maintenance and use of life saving, and fire fighting appliances provided on local craft.
- (37) Precautions to be observed in the loading and handling of dangerous goods.
- (38) Assisting other vessels in distress.
- (39) The Code of Safe Working Practices relating to the use of ropes, wires and lifting appliances, mooring operations, and the entry into enclosed spaces.

Remark: The examiner may ask the candidate any questions arising out of the examiner's practical chart work examination or may ask any questions based on Grade 3 and Grade 2 syllabus, if the examiner deems it necessary on account of any weakness shown by the candidate.

7.3 Engine Operator Grade 3 Examination

Engineering Knowledge

- (1) Basic knowledge of engine controls and instrumentation, engine normal operating parameters, actions to be taken in case of irregularities.
- (2) Description of the fuel system, knowledge of its common faults and remedies.
- (3) Basic knowledge of the air supply, exhaust, lubricating oil and cooling water system, the causes of, and remedies for common faults.
- (4) A knowledge of engine starting and stopping procedures, preparations prior to getting under way and duties of the engine operator while under way.
- (5) Basic knowledge of alternating current (AC) and direct current (DC) electrical systems, immediate actions in case of electrical shock.
- (6) The care, maintenance and safe handling of batteries.
- (7) A knowledge of electrical circuit protection devices such as fuses breakers, etc. and their care and maintenance.
- (8) Basic knowledge of steering gear on small local vessels and their operation.
- (9) Basic knowledge of the operation of pumping systems and their probable causes of failure.

Safety and Pollution Control

- (10) Petrol and diesel fuel, LPG installations and the precautions to be taken in their use.
- (11) The identification of the different types of fire extinguishers found aboard local craft and their proper use against different types of fire.
- (12) The prevention of fire in machinery spaces and the methods of fire fighting in such spaces.
- (13) A knowledge of fire fighting installations including fire pumps, fire hoses, fire hydrants, and sand boxes.
- (14) Safe fuel storage, remote fuel cut-offs, and the precautions to be taken while refuelling.
- (15) The correct handling of bilge water and the purposes of oil drip trays.
- (16) An understanding of the importance of good machinery space management including, ventilation, cleanliness, collection of loose oil or water and protection from moving machinery etc.
- (17) Prevention of pollution, e.g. oil pollution, air pollution, etc.

7.4 Engine Operator Grade 2 Examination

Engineering Knowledge

- (1) The construction and functions of various components of propulsion engines and auxiliaries.
- (2) The principle of the governor and its function in speed regulation.
- (3) The factors affecting combustion and a knowledge of fuel injection and

injectors. The care of fuel filters and air filters, their cleaning, replacement, and draining.

- (4) The construction, running and routine checking of turbochargers and after air coolers.
- (5) The fundamental causes of engine vibration and the effects of engine mounting, propeller damage, engine speed and uneven power distribution on engine vibration.
- (6) Basic knowledge of the properties of lubricating oil (viscosity, flash point, and water content.) and their importance to and affects on machinery operation.
- (7) The care, maintenance and safe operation of air compressors and air receivers, and a knowledge of protective devices fitted to starting air systems.
- (8) A basic knowledge of engine controls.
- (9) The detection of machinery malfunctions and the location of faults and action to be taken to prevent damage.
- (10) The care and maintenance of steering hydraulic systems and oil lubricated stern tubes.
- (11) Operational knowledge of AC and DC electrical systems and their safety aspects and dangers.

Safety and Pollution Prevention

- (12) The prevention of machinery space fires, actions to be taken in the event of a fuel leak, the significance of fire/smoke doors.
- (13) Actions to be taken in the event of machinery space flooding.
- (14) The operation, care and routine checking of portable fire extinguishers and fixed fire extinguishing systems. The necessity for periodic testing of fire alarms and gas release alarms and for holding drills.
- (15) Actions to be taken in the event of fire and fire fighting strategy including the tackling of fires outside the machinery space.
- (16) Operational knowledge of emergency power supplies and emergency steering systems.
- (17) The detection and rectification of earth faults and action to be taken in the event of electric shock.
- (18) The operation, care and maintenance of oily water separators.
- (19) Precautions to be taken to prevent oil spills when taking large quantities of fuel on board with a multi-tank system. Safety precautions and procedures when re-fuelling or transferring fuel on board. Action to be taken in the event of an oil spill.
- (20) Reporting casualties.
- (21) Hazards and precautions to be taken when entering enclosed spaces.
- (22) Prevention of pollution, e.g. oil pollution, air pollution, etc.

7.5 Local Knowledge Examination (*under Paragraph 3.2.2(2) and 3.3.4(3)*)

- (1) Limits of sheltered waters and the precautions to be observed when proceeding beyond sheltered limits.

- (2) Main Fairways and Traffic Separation Schemes in Hong Kong waters and the Rules governing their use and the proper conduct of ALL vessels using them and navigating in their vicinity.
- (3) Speed and other restrictions applicable in typhoon shelters and in Victoria Harbour.
- (4) Prohibited anchorages, restricted anchorages and restricted areas.
- (5) Rules governing the use of Public Piers and Typhoon Shelters.
- (6) The Ma-Wan Channel traffic light, its purpose, and the action to be taken in response to the different signals displayed.
- (7) Penalties for the dumping of refuse into or pollution of the waters of Hong Kong.
- (8) Towing restrictions in Hong Kong harbour.
- (9) The rules governing lying alongside vessels berthed in the harbour or lying at harbour mooring buoys. The Rules applicable to the use of harbour mooring buoys.
- (10) Important local and international signals, including storm signals, in common use in Hong Kong.
- (11) The requirement to report accidents and the method of making reports.
- (12) Sources of navigational warnings and other notices affecting navigation in Hong Kong waters.
- (13) Knowledge on the use of VHF radio channels.

Chapter 8

Exemptions and Recognized Training Courses

8.1 Exemption of persons having completed recognized training courses

- 8.1.1 If the Director is satisfied that the completion of a training course enables a person to attain the standard of competency required for passing a competency examination, the Director may recognize the course in respect of the examination.
- 8.1.2 If the Director has recognized a training course under paragraph 8.1.1 in respect of a competency examination, a person who has completed the course is exempted from the examination.

8.2 Partial exemption

Partial exemption from the examinations described in Chapter 6 of these rules may be also granted to those in possession of a recognized course completion certificate from an approved training establishment.

8.3 Details of recognized courses and approved training establishments

Details of recognized courses and approved training establishments and of the exemptions which are available, can be obtained from:

River Trade and Local Examination Section
Marine Department
3/F Harbour Building
38 Pier Road
Central
Hong Kong

8.4 Other eligibility criteria to be met

In spite of any exemption which is claimed under this chapter, an applicant for exemption is required to meet the remaining eligibility criteria for the issue of a certificate as described in Chapter 3.

Chapter 9

Type Rating Certificate (TRC) for Dynamically Supported Craft (DSC)

9.1 General

- 9.1.1 An officer manning the station of Coxswain, Assistant Coxswain, or Engine Operator on a Class I vessel that is a dynamically supported craft shall in addition to holding the appropriate local certificate of competency, be required to hold a valid Type Rating Certificate (TRC) for the type and model of craft on which he intends to serve. Officers manning other stations on the DSC are also required to hold a TRC if considered necessary by the Director.
- 9.1.2 In order to qualify for the issue of a TRC an applicant must:-
- (a) hold an appropriate local certificate of competency issued under the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Local Certificates of Competency) Rules;
 - (b) have satisfactorily completed a recognized training course on the type and model of DSC for which the TRC is required;
 - (c) pass the examination specified in paragraph 9.2;
 - (d) hold a valid medical fitness certificate (for coxswain and assistant coxswain it shall include a sight test);
 - (e) have attended a radar training course recognized by the Director (for coxswain and assistant coxswain only); and
 - (f) pay the appropriate specified fee.
- 9.1.3 A TRC will expire at the end of 2 years after the day on which it is granted. Thereafter it will fall due for further extension on each second anniversary of the date of extension.
- 9.1.4 TRC holders who wish to extend the validity of their certificates must:-
- (a) produce evidence of at least five months service in the appropriate rank in the type and model of DSC to which the TRC applies, during the preceding two years;
 - (b) produce a valid medical fitness certificate (for coxswain and assistant coxswain it shall include a sight test) issued by a registered medical practitioner;
 - (c) pass the revalidation examination specified in paragraph 9.2 or satisfy the Director via a recognized training or simulator assessment provided by the Marine Department as to their continued proficiency in operating the type and model of DSC to which the TRC refers. At the request of the DSC operator, the period between revalidation examinations may be extended from 2 years to 4 years; and
 - (d) pay the appropriate specified fee.

9.2 Examination for the issue/revalidation of a Type Rating Certificate (TRC)

9.2.1 The examination for the issue/revalidation of a TRC certificate will comprise an oral and practical handling test carried out on board the type and model of craft to which the TRC refers. The syllabus specified in paragraph 9.2.2 is written in general terms. A detailed syllabus for a particular type and model of craft will be agreed with each operating company.

9.2.2 Syllabus for TRC Examination.

- (a) a thorough knowledge of the operational limitations of the craft and of any operating restrictions imposed by HKMD.
- (b) a thorough knowledge of the structure and layout of the vessel, including stability conditions, and bilge pumping arrangements.
- (c) a working knowledge of the operation of the following systems-
 - 1. propulsion and associated systems.
 - 2. electrical system.
 - 3. fire protection system.
 - 4. navigation and communication systems.
 - 5. ship control systems both in displacement and non displacement modes.
- (d) a thorough knowledge of the failure modes of the control, steering and propulsion systems and the proper response to such failures.
- (e) a thorough knowledge of the significance of and correct response to alarms and caution indicators on all wheelhouse instrumentation.
- (f) a practical handling test on the vessel to include all normal, abnormal, and emergency procedures in both displacement and non displacement modes.
- (g) a thorough knowledge of bridge procedures.
- (h) a thorough knowledge of the use of life-saving and fire-fighting appliances on board and the arrangements for mustering, evacuating passengers and crew members in the event of an emergency.

9.3 Night Service

9.3.1 An officer manning the stations of Coxswain, Assistant Coxswain or Night Vision Officer on any DSC operating between 30 minutes after sunset and 30 minutes before sunrise, and which is required to be fitted with night vision equipment, shall additionally be approved by the Director for such operations after undergoing recognized training and assessment that shall include item (h) of paragraph 9.2.2.

9.3.2 In order to maintain night service approval an officer must perform at least 10 night service duty periods in any three months period.

9.4 Application for Type Rating Examination

9.4.1 Application for Type Rating Examination should be made in writing to:

River Trade and Local Examination Section
Marine Department
3/F Harbour Building
38 Pier Road
Central
Hong Kong

9.4.2 Each application for new issue of Type Rating Certificate should be accompanied by a completed application form obtainable from the Marine Department River Trade and Local Examination Section together with-

- (a) a copy of local certificate of competency;
- (b) a copy of radar training certificate (for coxswains and assistant coxswains only); and
- (c) certificate of medical fitness.

9.4.3 Examination appointment is to be mutually agreed subject to the availability of an examiner. Applications should be made well in advance of the date of examination and a vessel of appropriate type and model should be available.

Chapter 10

Fast Speed Passenger Vessel Endorsement

10.1 General

- 10.1.1 The Fast Speed Passenger Vessel (FSPV) endorsement serves to indicate the competency of a Coxswain and an Engine Operator (FSPV Officers) to operate a specific type of FSPV.
- 10.1.2 In order to qualify for the issue of an Endorsement an applicant must:-
- (1) hold an appropriate local certificate of competency issued under the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Local Certificates of Competency) Rules;
 - (2) have satisfactorily completed a Local Maritime Resource Management (LMRM) Course recognized by MD, as described in paragraph 10.4; and
 - (3) fulfil the requirements as stipulated in paragraph 10.1.3, 10.1.4 or 10.1.5 where applicable.
- 10.1.3 To operate a FSPV having licensed passenger carrying capacity greater than 100 (i.e. Category A), the applicant must:
- (1) have satisfactorily completed a FSPV Training Programme (“Training Programme”) recognized by MD, as described in paragraph 10.5; and
 - (2) pass a Practical Ship Handling Assessment (“Assessment”) recognized by MD, as described in paragraph 10.6.
- 10.1.4 To operate a FSPV having licensed passenger carrying capacity not more than 100 (i.e. Category B), the applicant must have satisfactorily completed a FSPV familiarisation programme (“Familiarisation”), as described in paragraph 10.7.
- 10.1.5 If the Training Programme and/or Assessment described in paragraph 10.1.3 is/are not available, an applicant shall pass an examination conducted by the Marine Department.

10.2 Validity and Revalidation

- 10.2.1 A FSPV endorsement will expire in two years after the day on which it is granted. Thereafter, the endorsement will fall due for further revalidation every two years.
- 10.2.2 A FSPV endorsement holder who wishes to revalidate the endorsement must-
- (1) produce evidence of accumulated sea service of five months during the preceding two years on board the specific type of FSPV to which the FSPV endorsement applies; and
 - (2) at four yearly intervals (i.e. 4th year, 8th year and 12th year etc.), complete a LMRM Course satisfactorily within 12 months before the expiry of the FSPV endorsement.

10.3 Safety Performance Monitoring of FSPV Endorsement Holders

- 10.3.1 Subject to the passenger carrying capacity of a FSPV, any FSPV endorsement holder, if being prosecuted and found guilty of safety related marine offences resulting in a fine, will be required to undergo all the requirements stated in paragraph 10.1.3 or 10.1.4 when revalidating his/her FSPV endorsement.
- 10.3.2 If a FSPV endorsement holder receives an advisory letter issued by MD, the holder, subject to the passenger carrying capacity of a FSPV, will be required to complete the requirements stated in paragraph 10.1.3(2) or 10.1.4 *within two months* from the date of the said letter, as well as complete satisfactorily a LMRM Course at the next earliest opportunity. Failure to complete any of the above may lead to cancellation of the endorsement.
- 10.3.3 A FSPV endorsement will be cancelled if the holder has been prosecuted and found guilty of marine offences resulting in imprisonment.

10.4 Local Maritime Resource Management Course (“LMRM”)

- 10.4.1 The LMRM Course is a generic course for all FSPV Officers. FSPV endorsement holders will be required to complete satisfactorily a LMRM Course at four yearly intervals. The syllabus outlined in paragraph 10.4.2 is written in general terms. A detailed syllabus will be agreed with each course provider.
- 10.4.2 Syllabus for LMRM Course should cover at least the following:
- (1) Judgment, decision making and leadership in emergencies.
 - (2) Crisis and crowd management.
 - (3) Communication and briefing skills.
 - (4) Situational awareness.
 - (5) Human involvement in accidents.
 - (6) Attitudes and management skills on bridge.
 - (7) Lessons or experience learned from recent casualties, accidents and breakdowns.

10.5 FSPV Training Programme

- 10.5.1 The Training Programme for the FSPV endorsement may be developed and implemented by the owner/ferry company. It comprises a combination of theoretical and practical training based on the type of FSPV which the FSPV endorsement refers. Paragraph 10.5.2 outlines a typical syllabus in general terms. The detailed syllabus will be agreed with each owner/ferry company.
- 10.5.2 Syllabus for the Training Programme should cover at least the following:
- (1) Service routes, the operational limitations of the vessel and of any operating conditions and restrictions imposed by the MD.
 - (2) Working knowledge of the structure and layout of the vessel, including stability conditions and bilge pumping arrangements.
 - (3) Working knowledge of the operation of the following systems-
 - (a) Propulsion and associated systems.
 - (b) Electrical system.

- (c) Fire protection system.
- (d) Navigation and communications systems.
- (e) Ship control systems.
- (4) Emergency contingency procedures to regain control in the event of failure in control, steering and propulsion systems.
- (5) Knowledge of correct response to alarms and indicators on all wheelhouse instrumentation.
- (6) Knowledge of bridge procedures.
- (7) Knowledge of the use of life-saving and fire-fighting appliances on board and the arrangements for mustering, evacuating passengers and crew members in the event of an emergency.
- (8) Knowledge of cargo and vehicle stowage securement systems (for a FSPV carrying both passengers and cargoes).
- (9) Practical Ship handling training.
- (10) Low visibility training.

10.6 Practical Ship Handling Skill Assessment (“Assessment”)

10.6.1 The Assessment will be carried out on board the specific type of FSPV to which the FSPV endorsement refers. The Assessment can be conducted by a trainer appointed by the owner/ferry company and is recognized by MD. The trainer shall:

- (1) possess a FSPV endorsement to operate the specific type of FSPV;
- (2) possess a minimum 2 years of experience for that specific type of FSPV or where applicable, trained by makers; and
- (3) have good safety record.

10.6.2 Paragraph 10.6.3 outlines a typical syllabus in general terms. The detailed syllabus will be agreed with each owner/ferry company.

10.6.3 Syllabus for the Assessment should cover at least the following:

- (1) Pre-departure checks.
- (2) Observing rules of navigation with due regard to vessel’s characteristics.
- (3) Control of ships, berthing and de-berthing of vessel.
- (4) Bridge team dynamics.
- (5) Communications/Reporting, including ability to give clear and accurate command to crew and communication with passengers during emergency situations.
- (6) Emergency Drill - to conduct abandon ship drill and fire drill, activate fire fighting system.
- (7) Emergency contingency response.

10.7 FSPV Familiarisation (“Familiarisation”)

10.7.1 The Familiarisation for Category B FSPV shall be conducted by the vessel owner/ferry company. The Familiarisation record shall be in a form specified by MD. The

Familiarisation shall cover at least the following:

- (1) Working knowledge of the structure and layout of the vessel, including stability conditions and bilge pumping arrangements.
- (2) Working knowledge of the operation of the following systems-
 - (a) Propulsion and associated systems.
 - (b) Electrical system.
 - (c) Fire protection system.
 - (d) Navigation and communications systems.
 - (e) Ship control systems.
- (3) Practical Ship handling.
- (4) Pre-departure checks
- (5) Control of ships, berthing and de-berthing of vessel.
- (6) Emergency Drill - to conduct abandon ship drill and fire drill, activate firefighting system (where applicable).
- (7) Emergency response.
- (8) Knowledge of correct response to alarms and indicators on all wheelhouse instrumentation.
- (9) Knowledge of the use of life-saving and firefighting appliances on board and the arrangements for mustering, evacuating passengers and crew members in the event of an emergency.

10.8 Application for FSPV Endorsement

10.8.1 Application for FSPV Endorsement should be made in writing to:

River Trade and Local Examination Section
Marine Department
3/F Harbour Building
38 Pier Road
Central
Hong Kong

10.8.2 Each application for new issue of FSPV endorsement should be accompanied by a completed application form obtainable from the River Trade and Local Examination Section together with:

- (1) a copy of local certificate of competency;
- (2) a copy of LMRM certificate; and
- (3) a copy of records indicating the fulfilment of the requirements stated in paragraph 10.1.2(3).

The original of the above documents must be produced at the time of submission of application for checking.

10.8.3 Each application under the transitional arrangement should be accompanied by a completed application form obtainable from the River Trade and Local Examination Section together with the following documents:

- (1) a copy of valid local certificate of competency;

- (2) a copy of valid Type Rating Certificate;
- (3) records of at least two years of experience operating the specific type of FSPV;
or records of at least one year of experience operating the specific type of FSPV and a copy of a LMRM certificate.

The original of the above documents must be produced at the time of submission of application for checking.

Chapter 11

Validity of Certificates and Extension

11.1 Period of validity

A local certificate of competency becomes valid when it is granted and expires –

- (1) in the case of a Type Rating Certificate, at the end of 2 years after the day on which it is granted; or
- (2) in the case of any local certificate of competency other than a Type Rating Certificate, when the holder of the certificate attains the age of 65,

unless it is cancelled, or currently being suspended, under the Ordinance or any subsidiary legislation made under the Ordinance.

11.2 Extension of Type Rating Certificates

- (1) The holder of a Type Rating Certificate may apply for extension of the certificate.
- (2) The application shall be made within 3 months before the expiry of the certificate.
- (3) If the Director is satisfied that the applicant has met all the conditions for extending the validity of a TRC as specified in paragraph 9.1.4, the Director shall approve the application.
- (4) If the Director approves the application, the certificate shall be extended for 2 years.

11.3 Extension of a Coxswain Certificate or an Engine Operator Certificate

- (1) The holder of a Coxswain Certificate or an Engine Operator Certificate may apply for extension of the certificate.
- (2) The application shall be made –
 - (a) if the holder has not attained the age of 71, within 6 months before the expiry of the certificate; or
 - (b) if the holder is aged 71 or above, within 3 months before the expiry of the certificate.
- (3) If the Director is satisfied that the applicant is fit to hold the certificate for the extended term referred to in sub-paragraph (4), the Director shall approve the application.
- (4) If the Director approves the application, the certificate shall be extended for –
 - (a) if the application is one to which paragraph 11.3.2 (a) relates, 3 years; or
 - (b) if the application is one to which paragraph 11.3.2 (b) relates, 1 year.

- (5) Holder of an expired certificate may, subject to meeting the following conditions or criteria, apply for issuance of a certificate with the same grade as that of the expired certificate without undergoing the examination specified in Chapter 6:
- (a)
 - (i) the certificate held has expired for less than 12 months; or
 - (ii) if the certificate has expired for a period of 12 months or more but less than 36 months, a maritime refresher course recognised by the Director shall be completed;
 - (b) provide a valid medical fitness certificate [***This requirement will be implemented from 30 June 2025***]; and
 - (c) if the certificate applied is of coxswain grade, the applicant must provide a valid eyesight test certificate to prove that he/she has met the eyesight standards set out in Chapter 4 of these examination rules.