

## **Local Vessel Advisory Committee**

### **Sub-committee on Class I and Class II Vessels**

#### **Single Voyage for Repair**

##### **Purpose**

This paper seeks to inform members of the arrangement in applying the exemption notice for single voyage for Class I and Class II local vessels above 15 metres in length to sail to a port for repair within the area of River Trade Limit. The introduction of the above exemption notice aims to ensure maritime safety while providing flexibility for local vessels to sail on their own power to the Mainland for necessary maintenance and repairs.

##### **Background**

2. Currently, local vessels encounter regulatory constraints that restrict their ability to sail independently to Mainland China for repair purposes. Firstly, Mainland authorities prohibit this activity. Secondly, local vessels, unless certified for river trade, are confined to Hong Kong waters as stipulated by their Operating Licence (OL) conditions. Thirdly, Section 79 of Cap. 548G specifically forbids certain Class II vessels from operating beyond Hong Kong waters.

3. Recently, Mainland authorities have revised its policies to permit local vessels from Hong Kong to sail into their waters for repair purposes. In response to this change and in support of the trade, the Marine Department hereby announce the application procedures for the exemption notice.

##### **Exemption Notice**

4. Vessels applying for an exemption notice are required to undergo a Single Voyage Survey (SVS) and upon its satisfactory completion, an SVS report will be issued. The purpose of SVS is to ensure the vessels are fit for the intended voyage. Its survey scope can be found in the SVS form and guidance notes which are provided at Annex 1. The SVS can be conducted by the Marine Department or any competent surveyor.

5. The list of competent surveyors can be accessed from the link below:

[https://www.mardep.gov.hk/filemanager/en/share/pub-services/pdf/lvs\\_list.pdf](https://www.mardep.gov.hk/filemanager/en/share/pub-services/pdf/lvs_list.pdf)

6. The applicant for the exemption notice is required to submit a completed application form together with a SVS report issued to his vessel to the Licencing and Port Formalities Section. The application shall be submitted 14 days prior to the scheduled outbound voyage and 3 days prior to the inbound voyage.

7. The link to the application form is provided below:

<https://www.mardep.gov.hk/filemanager/en/share/forms/pdf/md557.pdf>

8. For enquiries, please contact the following Sections:-

Local Vessels Safety Section  
Address: 23/F Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong.  
Telephone No.: 2852 4444  
Fax No.: 2542 4679

Licencing and Port Formalities Section  
Address: East Wing, 3/F Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong.  
Telephone No.: 2852 3083  
Fax No.: 2581 0667