

**LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Proposed Amendments for  
Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Local Certificates of Competency)  
Rules,  
Examination Rules for Local Certificates of Competency  
and  
Examination Rules for Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificate of Competency**

The purpose of this paper is to seek members' views on the following proposal to amend the relevant provisions in the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Local Certificates of Competency) Rules, Examination Rules for Local Certificates of Competency and Examination Rules for Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificate of Competency (collectively "**Rules**").

**The proposed changes**

2. Under the Rules, biofuels are included in the definition of alternative fuels (替代燃料).
3. The new Codes of Practice – Safety and Operational Guidelines for Bunkering of Alternative Fuels ("**COP**") endorsed by the LVAC on 19 December 2024 defines alternative fuels as "gases or other low flash-point fuels other than conventional fuels and biofuels". This definition take into the consideration of the risks associated with the operation of biofuels as fuel onboard local vessels.
4. It is proposed to replace the definition of alternative fuels in the Rules by that in the COP so as to ensure consistency. Please refer to Annex of this paper.

### **Reason for the change**

5. To avoid confusion and ensure effective application of both the COP and the Rules, it is recommended that the definitions of alternative fuels be consistent across these documents. This would ensure effective implementation of the COP and facilitate training in the operation of local vessels using alternative fuels.

### **Action requested**

6. Members are invited to comment and endorse the above proposal before 20.1.2025.

**Local Vessels and Examination Division**

**Marine Department**

**January 2025**

### Medical Fitness Assessment Regime

<b>MERCHANT SHIPPING (LOCAL VESSELS) (LOCAL CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY) RULES</b>
<p><b>In Part 1 section 2 – change definitions</b></p> <p>“alternative fuels” means <del>includes LNG, LPG, hydrogen, ammonia, methanol, ethane, biofuels and other</del> gases or other low-flashpoint fuels other than conventional fuels and biofuels;</p>
<b>EXAMINATION RULES FOR LOCAL CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY</b>
<p><b>In section 1.3 of Chapter 1 – change definitions</b></p> <p>“alternative fuels” means <del>includes LNG, LPG, hydrogen, ammonia, methanol, ethane, biofuels and other</del> gases or other low-flashpoint fuels other than conventional fuels and biofuels;</p>
<b>EXAMINATION RULES FOR PLEASURE VESSEL OPERATOR CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY</b>
<p><b>In section 1.3 of Chapter 1 – change definitions</b></p> <p>“alternative fuels” means <del>includes LNG, LPG, hydrogen, ammonia, methanol, ethane, biofuels and other</del> gases or other low-flashpoint fuels other than conventional fuels and biofuels;</p>