

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**TLB227****(Question Serial No. 3779)**Head: (100) Marine DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (4) Services to ShipsControlling Officer: Director of Marine (Mr S.F. WONG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and LogisticsQuestion:

Regarding the initial and periodical safety inspections of locally-licensed and river trade vessels, please advise on:

- (a) the annual numbers of initial and periodical safety inspections required (please list out the respective numbers for the 4 classes of vessels or other types of vessels) in the past 3 years (2022-23 to 2024-25);
- (b) the annual numbers of initial and periodical safety inspections entrusted to the Government (please list out the respective numbers for the 4 classes of vessels or other types of vessels) in the past 3 years (2022-23 to 2024-25); and
- (c) the staffing involved in conducting the above safety inspections and the average number of cases handled by each officer annually in the past 3 years (2022-23 to 2024-25).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 69)

Reply:

Safety inspections for Class I vessels (i.e. passenger-carrying vessels), Class II vessels which carry dangerous goods and large-sized Class IV vessels are required to be conducted by either Marine Department (MD) officers or authorised classification societies, while safety inspections for other vessels can be conducted by either MD officers, authorised classification societies or authorised surveyors in the private sector.

- (a)(i) The numbers of locally-licensed vessels (including river trade vessels) requiring initial safety inspections in the past 3 years are set out as follows:

	2022	2023	2024
Class I Vessels	9	2	15
Class II Vessels	42	26	31
Class III Vessels	27	35	42
Class IV Vessels	5	11	6

Total	83	74	94
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- (a)(ii) The numbers of locally-licensed vessels (including river trade vessels) requiring periodical safety inspections in the past 3 years are set out as follows:

	2022	2023	2024
Class I Vessels	403	403	391
Class II Vessels	1 571	1 469	1 393
Class III Vessels	998	1 737*	1 106 [#]
Class IV Vessels	73	69	72
Total	3 045	3 678	2 962

* There was an increase in the number of fishing vessels inspected in 2023 when compared to that in 2022 as MD has authorised surveyors of the recognised fishing vessel survey organisations in the Mainland to conduct inspections for Hong Kong mobile fishing vessels in the Mainland starting from September 2022.

[#] There was a reduction in the number of fishing vessels inspected in 2024 when compared to that in 2023 due to the cyclical nature of Class III vessel inspections.

- (b)(i) The numbers of locally-licensed vessels (including river trade vessels) with initial safety inspections conducted by MD in the past 3 years are set out as follows:

	2022	2023	2024
Class I Vessels	0	1	0
Class II Vessels	1	1	3
Class III Vessels	8	11	9
Class IV Vessels	0	0	0
Total	9	13	12

- (b)(ii) The numbers of locally-licensed vessels (including river trade vessels) with periodical safety inspections conducted by MD in the past 3 years are set out as follows:

	2022	2023	2024
Class I Vessels	386	372	356
Class II Vessels	358	300	265
Class III Vessels	278	371	250
Class IV Vessels	47	40	37
Total	1 069	1 083	908

- (c) Safety inspections detailed in the tables in (b) above are conducted by 20 ship surveyors and ship inspectors of the Local Vessels Safety Section of MD. The average number of cases handled by each officer annually in the past 3 years is 54 in 2022, 55 in 2023 and 46 in 2024.