

ANNEX 20 - ISSUE OF WORK BOAT CERTIFICATES TO FISHING VESSELS

FISHING VESSEL TO WORK BOAT

1. General

1.1 It was noted that the ItoS has guidance (Annex 13 and 14) on fishing vessels being used as Guard Ships for the fishing vessel industry on the basis they are already under a survey regime as fishing vessels. Such vessels are now being requested to undertake activities for the wind farm industry such as monitoring bird populations and towing a “creeper” to physically check the sea bed for obstructions. In this case the fishing vessels are being used for non fishing vessel industry related activities; this should result in them complying with Small Commercial Vessel standards for under 24m vessels (in accordance with MGN 280) as they were not acting as fishing vessels.

1.2 Annex 13 - Issue of Guard Ship Load Line Exemptions for Fishing Vessels confirms that any fishing vessel under 15 m LOA is not eligible for a Guard Ship exemption, and must be surveyed under the Workboat Code to undertake such duties. Such a vessel is already certified to undertake activities for the wind farm industry.

1.3 A fishing vessel must be in possession of a valid UK Fishing Vessel Certificate and items associated with hull, watertight integrity, freeboard and stability must have been inspected by an MCA surveyor. Any vessel issued with exemptions will be especially reviewed as the exemptions may make the vessel non-compliant with the MGN 280.

1.4 A fishing vessel with a valid UK Fishing Vessel Certificate and complying with the following may be issued with a limited work boat certificate harmonised with the UK Fishing Vessel Certificate.

Limited to

A vessel may be considered for the issue of a Small Commercial Vessel certificate allowing it to operate on the following conditions:-

- vessels of up to 24 metres Load Line length which are engaged at sea in activities on a commercial basis,
- Area Category 2 - Up to 60 miles from a safe haven;
- not more than 12 passengers
- vessels carrying cargo less than 1000kg

2. The Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC)

2.1 The MLC comes into force internationally on the 20th August 2013, but will not be fully in force in international law for UK vessels until 7th August 2014, a year after the date the UK ratified the Convention.

2.2 The UK interpretation is that the MLC does not apply to United Kingdom ships operating on domestic voyages within 60 miles of a UK safe haven.

2.3 For vessel in Category 1 please refer to MGN 490 which includes SMALL VESSEL INSPECTION REPORT.

2.4 For Category 2 vessels the Certificate shall be endorsed with the following statement:

"This vessel shall not proceed more than 60 miles from a UK safe haven or on an international voyage, and shall only operate from UK ports".

3. Manning

Deck Officer Certificate of Competency (Fishing Vessel)

Skipper Second Hand (Special) Category 2

Skipper Class 2 Category 1

{Second Hand (Special) is equivalent to Class 2 in the limited area only}

Skipper Second Hand Full Category 1
See also radio section at end

4. Medical Fitness Certificates

4.1 The skipper and anyone else who is employed on board and who has safety responsibilities should hold an authorised medical fitness certificate. The standard medical fitness certificate for anyone employed at sea is the seafarer's medical certificate (ENG1).

4.2 For those employed on small commercial vessels that operate no further than 60 miles from a safe haven (Area Categories 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6) the alternative ML5 certificate is acceptable.

5. Compliance examination / Renewal examination

5.1 The owner/managing agent should arrange for a compliance examination to be carried out by an authorised person from the chosen Certifying Authority; in the case of a vessel holding a UK Fishing Vessel Certificate this is the MCA.

5.2 At this examination the vessel should be examined out of the water. Upon satisfactory completion and verification that the arrangements, fittings and equipment documented in the Compliance Examination and Declaration report form SCV2, are / remain in compliance with the Code and that the vessel and its machinery are in a sound and well maintained condition.

6. Examination requirements other than compliance or renewal

Type of Service Carrying 15 or less persons and carrying less than 1000kg

Category 2 Self +3yr (IW)

Self = Owner or managing agent (see MGN 280 Section 27.4.2.3)

IW = In water examination (see MGN 280 Section 27.4.2.4)

3yr = Intermediate Examination

{note similar to UK Fishing Vessel certificate requirements}

7. Additional equipment required

7.1 Vessels Operating in Area Category 2, should be provided with liferaft capacity to accommodate at least the total number of persons on board;

7.2 A suitable lifejacket should be provided for each person on board. If the lifejackets are the inflatable type, an additional 10% or 2, whichever is the greater, should be provided.

7.3 Thermal Protective Aids 100% persons on board.

7.4 When immersion suits are provided for all onboard, as part of the vessel's equipment, only 2 TPAs need to be provided for the use of injured persons.

7.5 Training Manual: A training and instruction manual should contain instructions and information on the lifesaving appliances provided in the vessel and also contains information on the best methods of survival.

7.6 Instruction Manual (on board maintenance): The manual should contain instructions for onboard maintenance of the life-saving appliances.

7.7 Red Hand Flares additional 2 off (4 off already on board).

7.8 Not less than four multi-purpose fire extinguishers to a recognised standard, with a minimum fire rating of 13A/113B – Fishing Vessel Code requires 5.

7.9 At least two fire buckets with lanyards. Buckets may be of metal, plastic or canvas and should be suitable for their intended service.

7.10 Fixed fire extinguishing in engine space.

7.11 A receiver for a global navigation satellite system or a terrestrial radio-navigation system, or other means suitable for use at all times throughout the intended voyage to establish and update the vessel's position at all times.

7.12 A distance measuring log: except that this need not be provided where the navigational aid above provides reliable distance measurements in the area of operation of the vessel.

7.13 Signalling Lamp: A vessel should be provided with an efficient waterproof electric lamp suitable for signalling.

7.14 A barometer

7.15 A vessel operating in Area Category 0, 1, 2 or 3 should be provided with an efficient fixed and/or portable searchlight suitable for use in man-overboard search and recovery operations.

7.16 An overside boarding ladder or scrambling net which extends from the weather deck to at least 600mm below the operational waterline, or other means to aid the recovery of an unconscious person from the water, should be provided to the satisfaction of the Certifying Authority.

8. Accommodation

8.1 When a vessel is intended to be at sea for more than 24 hours, an adequate standard of accommodation for all on board should be provided. In considering such accommodation, primary concern should be directed towards ensuring the health and safety aspects of persons, e.g. the ventilation, lighting, water services, galley services and the access/escape arrangements.

8.2 An emergency (dedicated reserve) supply of drinking water should be carried at the rate of 2 litres per person on board.

8.3 Adequate toilet facilities, separated from the rest of the accommodation, should be provided for persons on board. In general, there should be at least one flushing marine toilet and one wash hand basin for every 12 persons.

9. Intact Stability

9.1 Normal Guard ship conditions to be revised to include passengers and 1000kgs cargo.

9.2 Curves of statical stability (GZ curves) should be produced for:-

- .1 Loaded departure, 100% consumables;
- .2 Loaded arrival, 10% consumables;
- .3 Anticipated service conditions; and
- .4 Conditions involving lifting appliances (when appropriate).

Note that should more than 1000 kgs be required then annual surveys are mandatory.

10. AIS Automatic Identification System Category A

10.1 To be kept on all the time.

11. Radio

11.1 Ideally the fishing vessel will be surveyed to A1+A2 GMDSS standard. Vessels A1 only are recommended to fit NAVTEX and a MF SSB radio with DSC or Inmarsat Ship Earth Station and as a consequence will require the Ship's Radio Licence upgraded and require on board a holder of a Marine Radio Operator's Certificate of Proficiency (MROCP) either Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) Long Range Certificate or GMDSS - General Operators Certificate.