



Maritime & Coastguard Agency

Consultation on the Impact Assessment for the Merchant Shipping (Bridge Visibility Regulations) (Small Passenger Ships)

Purpose of this consultation

1. This consultation concerns the Impact Assessment prepared with respect to proposed changes to the small passenger ship bridge visibility requirements (which are currently implemented via Merchant Shipping (Bridge Visibility) (Small Passenger Ships) Regulations 2005, Statutory Instrument (SI) 2005/2286). These changes are necessary to address:
 - A regulatory lacuna that exists for vessels with a registered length of 45m or more.
 - A perceived lack of clarity within the definition of enclosed passenger deck and the use of visual aids when determining sight lines.
2. A full regulatory Impact Assessment has now been prepared in respect of these amendments and this consultation aims to seek views on the Impact Assessment only.

Background

3. The proposed changes will be implemented by a new SI which will repeal and replace the current Regulations. This SI was consulted on between 8 November 2016 and 16 February 2017. More detail on the changes to the requirements and the new instrument, along with a summary of responses to the consultation page can be found by visiting the consultation page:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-implementation-of-the-merchant-shipping-bridge-visibility-regulations-small-passenger-ships-2017>
4. Prior to the consultation a Regulatory Triage Assessment was prepared in respect of the Regulations to give an indication of likely impact and confirm that the Regulations were suitable for the 'Fast Track'. The RTA indicated a low likely impact and thus the instrument was able to proceed to consultation before the preparation of a full Impact Assessment.
5. As is required for all domestic measures, and following consultation feedback, an Impact Assessment has been prepared with the support of Dft economists. This

consultation seeks comment on the Impact Assessment before any changes and finalisation.

Impact of the changes on the UK Domestic Passenger Ship Industry

6. All the firms currently in operation are compliant with the proposed changes. It is expected that only one firm who may operate vessels in future will need to make changes as a result of the proposals. The impact assessment therefore concludes that the impact is relatively low.

Consultation questions

7. We would be grateful for any suggestions or views you may have with respect to the Impact Assessment.

How to Respond

12. A four-week consultation will be held between 19 June 2018 and 17 July 2018. The consultation is available on the Gov.UK website; hard copies are available on request.

13. Please send your responses, marked for the attention of Joanna Dormon

consultationsdmss@mcga.gov.uk or

Vessel Standards Branch
Bay 2/22, Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
Southampton
SO15 1EG

By 17 July 2018.

Freedom of Information

14. Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

15. If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence.

16. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an

assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department/MCA.

17. The MCA will process your personal data in accordance with the data protection framework and, in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Data Protection

18. The MCA is carrying out this consultation to gather evidence. The consultation is being carried out in the public interest to inform the development of policy.

19. The MCA will use your contact details to send you information about the consultation, for example if we need to ask follow-up questions, as part of its functions as a government department. Your information will be kept secure and will not be used for any other purpose without your permission.

20. To find out more about how the MCA looks after personal data, your rights, and how to contact our data protection officer, please go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency/about/personal-information-charter>

If you do not wish to remain on this list, please reply and let us know.

Annex – Impact Assessment