



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

# Consultation on the draft Marine Guidance Notice: Class IX Tugs under 500GT – Guidance for the Exemption from the Carriage of a Rescue Boat

## **Consultation Outcome Report**

Summary of consultee comments and government responses  
to them

July 2019

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## Section 1: Introduction

1. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), an executive Agency of the Department for Transport (DfT), carried out a public consultation to seek views on a draft Marine Guidance Notice (MGN) entitled Class IX Tugs Under 500GT - Guidance for Exemption from the Carriage of a Rescue Boat.
2. The draft MGN was written with the support of the British Tug Owners Association and other UK tug owners/operators.
3. The draft MGN provides a clear set of risk mitigations for a tug owner/operator to consider before applying for exemption from the carriage of a rescue boat. The MGN also provides a transparent procedure for applying for such an exemption.
4. Views were sought on the MGN in general and the on the risk mitigations which must be put in place should a Class IX tug owner wish to be exempt from the statutory requirement to carry a rescue boat.
5. This report provides an outline of the comments received from respondents and details the next steps to be taken.

## Section 2: Consultation

6. The consultation was carried out for four weeks between 27<sup>th</sup> May 2019 and 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019. It can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/class-ix-tugs-under-500qt-guidance-for-exemption-from-the-carriage-of-a-rescue-boat>
7. The consultation was promulgated on GOV.UK for any member of the public who wished to read it and/or respond to it.
8. A total of one response was received from across the UK. The response was received from a representative group of UK tug owners/operators.

## Section 3: Consultation outcome

9. The government's proposals were described in the consultation document, which then provided consultees with the opportunity to comment on the MGN and its content.
10. The response that was received welcomed the introduction of the draft MGN and agreed that the information contained therein provided clarity and certainty to tug operators, whilst enhancing safety of operations.

## **Section 4: Next steps**

11. A summary of the response received is outlined above in paragraph 10.
12. Based on the support for the MGN, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency will now aim to publish the draft MGN as soon as possible.