



---

---

## **MCA New Build Fishing Vessel Procedures from 21 July 2020**

### **Notice to all Designers, Builders, Owners, Managing Agents, Employers, Skippers and Crew of Fishing Vessels**

*This notice should be read with with the Fishing Vessels (Code of Practice) Regulations 2017 No.943 and the Merchant Shipping (Work in Fishing Convention) Regulations 2018 No.1106, MSN1871 Amendment No.1 The Fishing Vessels Code of Practice for the Safety of Fishing Vessels of less than 15m Length Overall and MSN1872 Amendment No.1 The Fishing Vessel Code of Safe Working Practice for the Construction and Use of Fishing Vessels of 15m Length Overall to less than 24m Registered Length.*

*This MIN expires on 30 March 2021*

---

---

#### **Summary**

This Note provides information on the transfer of work regarding the Plan Approval, Construction and Outfit and Certification of new build Fishing Vessels after 20 July 2020, at which point MCA will take over this service from Seafish.

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. Currently, plan approval and the issuing of Construction and Outfit Certificates of new Fishing Vessels of less than 24m Registered Length is conducted by Seafish.
- 1.2. As notified to industry in a joint communication, Seafish have given notice that they will cease this work on 20 July 2020. As a result, this work will be undertaken by the MCA. This Note sets out the how the MCA proposes to take over the work after that date. It should be remembered that the service provided by the MCA will only be available for vessels being built to be Registered as Fishing Vessels in the United Kingdom.



## **2. Background**

2.1 New Fishing Vessels of less than 24m Registered Length and registering as a fishing vessel for the first time must be constructed to the recognised standard covering Hull, Machinery, Electrical, and Control systems. This may be either:

- The Construction and Outfit Standards of a Certifying Authority for Fishing Vessels; or
- an equivalent standard recognised by the MCA as suitable for Fishing Vessels, such as those of a Recognised Organisation. Details of Recognised Organisations can be found in MGN322 – Ship Survey Standards.

2.2 On first registration of a vessel, the owner must supply the required hull construction and outfit certificates to the Registry of Shipping and Seamen (RSS). Failure to do so will result in the vessel not being registered.

## **3.0 New Build Procedures and Fees**

3.1 From 20 July 2020, the MCA will take over the Survey and Certification Work from Seafish. All vessels that are currently under construction will continue their construction under the oversight of the MCA.

3.2 The MCA will undertake all plan approvals for all vessels. MCA surveyors will oversee all surveys of vessels of between 12m length overall and 24m registered length, with surveys of vessels less than 12m length overall being delegated to authorised Fishing Vessel Certifying Authorities. The MCA are currently drafting an Agreement which will set out the terms under which Certifying Authorities can undertake this work.

3.3 All work by the MCA will be charged at the applicable fees rate set out in the Merchant Shipping (Fees) Regulations 2018 No.1104. The current fee rate is £147 per hour.

3.4 There is also a charge of £147 per hour for travel time to a maximum of 4 hours for each visit to a ship in the United Kingdom, and 10 hours in any period of 24 hours for travel from the United Kingdom to a ship located abroad and back to the United Kingdom.

3.5 Please see the Fees Regulations for further information.

3.6 Any applications for new build vessels should be forwarded to the MCA from 13 July 2020, as Seafish will not be undertaking any survey work after this date.

3.7 The MCA will produce a guide which will provide details on the procedures to be followed when seeking to construct a new Fishing Vessel of less than 24m Registered Length for the UK Register. However, it is the case that in general, the existing process will be followed wherever possible. The Guide will address:

- Application Process and Forms required
- Pre-build requirements of builders and designers
- Applicable Rules, single contract vessels and series of identical vessels
- Equivalent arrangements
- Plan Approval, including drawings and plans to be submitted for approval
- Yard inspections



- Survey Attendance and Certification Requirements
- Functional Testing
- Installation of systems and equipment
- Documents to submit upon completion of the vessel by the builder
- Guidance on Estimated Hours to Undertake Work

3.8 The MCA reserves the right to decline a request for a new build survey and no service will be supplied until the application and requested funds have been received.

3.9 No construction of a vessel shall begin until the plans have been approved (and in the case of GRP vessels, the moulding premises inspected). Failure to follow this requirement may result in refusal of certification.

#### **4. Plan Approval Process**

4.1 Before building a vessel, drawing approval is required for the vessel intended to be built. If you are building a one-off vessel an Application for Survey and Inspection of Ships and Fishing Vessels (form MSF 5100) and Additional Information (form MSF 1356) should be submitted to the Marine Office closest to where the vessel is to be built. A list of Marine Offices can be found on the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency/about/access-and-opening>

4.2 If you would like the drawing approval to be dealt with separately, such as when multiple boats are to be built from the same set of drawings, then please clearly indicate this on the Additional Information form MSF 1356. The application should then be sent to:

MCA Stability and Plan Approval Unit  
 Albex House  
 1 Marchfield Drive  
 Paisley  
 Renfrewshire  
 PA3 2RB

Alternatively, applications and drawings can be submitted electronically to:  
[stability.unit@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:stability.unit@mcga.gov.uk)

4.3 On receipt of the Application and additional information a lead surveyor will be nominated by the Marine Office or Plan Approval Unit. Once nominated, an estimate of fees will be provided.

#### **5. Vessels currently under Construction**

5.1 For vessels currently under construction and which will not be finished at the time that the work transfers from Seafish to the MCA, the MCA will accept the survey reports and plans approved by Seafish in order to avoid any duplication of work on these vessels.

#### **6. Fishing Vessel Construction and Outfit Standards**

6.1 The current Seafish Construction and Outfit Standards will transfer to the ownership of the MCA. The MCA does not propose to change the requirements in the Standards immediately. The Standards will be republished in Marine Guidance Notes (MGNs).



- 6.2 The MCA will undertake annual reviews of the Construction and Outfit Standards. The MCA will establish a Fishing Vessel Construction Standards Working Group for this purpose. Any amendments or guidance on the Standards will be issued as Marine Information Notes and a revised Standard will be issued every five years as a new Marine Guidance Note.
- 6.3 The MCA would like to invite interested organisations to apply for membership of the Working Group. Nominations should come from associations of individuals or companies, which can represent the views of their members. The MCA will not accept nominations from individual companies or individuals representing themselves.

## More Information

Vessel Standards Branch  
Maritime and Coastguard Agency  
Bay 2/22  
Spring Place  
105 Commercial Road  
Southampton  
SO15 1EG

Tel : +44 (0) 203 81172454  
e-mail: [fishing@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:fishing@mcga.gov.uk)

Website Address: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency)

General Enquiries: [infoline@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:infoline@mcga.gov.uk)

File Ref: MS88/1/673

Published: March 2020  
Please note that all addresses and  
telephone numbers are correct at time of publishing

© Crown Copyright 2020

***Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas***

