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## The Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Fishing Vessels of less than 15m Length Overall

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

*This notice should be read in conjunction with the Fishing Vessels (Code of Practice) Regulations 2017 No.943 and the Merchant Shipping (Work in Fishing Convention) Regulations 2018 No.1106 and replaces MSN 1871 Amendment 1 – The Code of Practice for the Safety of Fishing Vessels of less than 15m*

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#### Summary

This Notice provides a Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Fishing Vessels of less than 15m Length Overall, replacing MSN 1813 and this amendment applies new requirements for new and existing vessels relating to:

- Construction, Watertight and Weathertight Integrity;
- Stability;
- Machinery
- Electrical Installations;
- Crew Protection;
- Man Overboard recovery

The new Code requires that all vessels must be maintained to the same standard to which they were constructed and that any modifications must meet the Construction and Outfit Standards currently in place.

The Code also introduces a requirement for vessels to be seen in and out of the water as part of the inspection process.

A Phase in period of (To be decided) will apply.

### 1. Introduction

This Merchant Shipping Notice is associated with The Fishing Vessels (Code of Practice) Regulations 2017 No. 943 and the Merchant Shipping (Work in Fishing Convention) Regulations 2018 No.1106. It sets out the full text of the Code of Practice for the Small Safety



of Fishing Vessels of less than 15m Length Overall (the Code). This original version of this Code came into force on 23 October 2017, a first amendment came into force on 31 December 2018 and this Code will enter into force on DD/MM/YYYY.

- **Background**

.1 The Fishing Vessels (Codes of Practice) Regulations 2017 No.943 give statutory force to the Code and replaces the requirements of the following Regulations as they apply to fishing vessels under 15 metres Length Overall (LOA)

- **The Revised Code**

3.1 The Code contained within this MSN sets out the full text of The Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Fishing Vessels.

3.2 The previous Code MSN1871 Amendment No.1 was subject to a review by MCA, industry and other interested bodies and this Notice and the revised Code contained herein have been developed as a result of that review. The aim of the review was to update existing requirements in order to improve the safety of fishing vessels in foreseeable operating conditions, and the survival of the crew in the event of an accident.

#### **4. Changes applied to the revised Code**

4.1 This Code sets out a number of new requirements based on recommendations from the MAIB and investigations of past incidents.

4.2 The new requirements applied in this Code include:

##### **Inspection Requirements**

- It will be a requirement that the vessel, as well as being seen in water, is to be seen out of the water once every five years at the renewal inspection prior to issue of its Small Fishing Vessel Certificate.

##### **New requirements for Construction, Watertight and Weathertight Integrity.**

- The new Code requires that any vessel must be maintained to Construction and Outfit Standards through the life of the vessel. Additionally, any vessel that carries out a modification, must make those changes in accordance with the current Construction and Outfit Standards.
- New decked vessels must minimise the use of flexible hoses. New open vessels with a sole and fitted with a timber hole should replace the hole with a drain fitting whilst all new open vessels must have manual bilge pumping.
- Although the current arrangements for existing vessels will continue to be accepted, a number of requirements for existing vessels are required. These cover the following elements of construction:
  - The structural strength and construction and disposition of bulkheads;



- Vessel hull, decks, bulkheads doors, coamings, skylights and hatches;
- Closing arrangements;
- Ventilators;
- Air pipes and Exhaust systems;
- Sea inlets and discharges;
- Water freeing arrangements.

## **Stability and Freeboard**

- Stability requirements for new vessels will depend on the fishing method they wish to employ. Category C vessels are new vessels which carry out activities such as Gill and Trammel Netting, Rod Fishing or Line Fishing and can either comply with the requirements of:
  - .1 the requirements for vessels of 12m (L) to less than 15m (LOA) built or joining the Register on or after 23 October 2017: or
  - .2 An Offload Test; or
  - .3 if less than 6m, be constructed in compliance with [ISO 12217-1](#); or
  - .4 If 6m to less than 12m, be constructed in accordance with [ISO 12217-3](#).
- Category B vessels are new Vessels which carry out activities such as Bulk Fishing or Potting must comply with 1 or 2 above and Category A vessels are those new vessels which conduct a fishing method such as Trawling or Dredging or are not otherwise listed in the Code must comply with .1 above.
- Existing vessels conducting any method of fishing must either conduct a Roll Test or Heel Test which must be repeated every five years under the same conditions.
- All vessels, both new and existing must have a Wolfson Stability Notice posted on board the vessel, which gives information on the loading of the vessel and its effect on stability.
- Vessels will have their fishing method recorded on their certificate and any vessel that changes to a method in a different category which they have never undertaken before, regardless of whether they are new or existing, must comply with the requirements of that category as if they were a new vessel.
- New vessels will also be required to have a minimum freeboard on joining the Register, which they must maintain.

## **Machinery and Electrical Requirements**

- New decked vessels engines fitted below deck must have an adjacent means for shutting off the engine and meet refrigeration plant standards, cables should not be run below deck unless necessary and pumps or alarms should be connected before cut offs.



- New open vessels must not run cables below deck unless necessary and pumps or alarms should be connected before cut offs. However, it is estimated that these requirements will not apply to 80% of open vessels due to their size and/or construction.
- For all existing vessels, the following areas will have standards applied to them:
  - Machinery must be of a construction adequate for the service for which they are intended and be efficiently installed and protected.
  - Layout and installation;
  - Navigational visibility
  - Steering gear
  - Starting arrangements
  - Ventilation
  - Ladders
  - Floor plates
  - Electrical arrangements
  - Emergency power
  - Engines, stern gear propeller shafts, fuel oil and cooling water

### **Fire Protection, Detection and Extinction**

- New decked vessels must keep cooking appliances away from engines and fuel tanks, have them strongly secured and keep textiles or curtains away from cookers and heaters.
- The requirements for existing vessels contained with the Code address the following areas:
  - Portlight and deadlight arrangements,
  - Storage of cylinders containing flammable, toxic or other dangerous gases, and expended cylinders shall be clearly marked as to their contents and properly stowed and secured All valves, pressure regulators and pipes leading from such cylinders shall be protected against damage
  - Exhaust pipes and ducts insulation
  - Cooking and heating appliances

### **Protection of Personnel**

- New vessels, must ensure the surface of their decks are non-slip.
- For existing vessels, the additional requirements apply to:
  - Handrails, grab rails and handholds
  - Non-Slip working decks have to be non-slip.
  - Winches, hauling hoisting gear
  - Secure heavy items



## 5. Additional Guidance

5.1 An owner will be required to ensure that an appropriate and up to date health and safety risk assessment has been completed in accordance with the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) Regulations 1997, as amended.

5.2 Attention is also drawn to the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Personal Protective Equipment) Regulations 1999 which set out the general rule that personal Protective Equipment must be used when risks cannot be avoided or reduced to an acceptable level

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