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30 November 2017

Dear Consultee,

CONSULTATION FOR FIRE RETARDANT TREATMENT

This consultation is for a new Marine Guidance Note (MGN) replacing MGN 453 (Fire Retardant Treatment).

Under the requirements of the Large Commercial Yacht Code, for vessels of less than 500GT, unless the space is fitted with sprinklers or equivalent approved fixed fire extinguishing systems, upholstery and suspended textiles are required to be inherently fire retardant by complying with the relevant parts of the IMO Fire Test Procedures Code (FTP Code) or an equivalent standard acceptable to the Administration.

The MCA has been approached by companies wishing to provide fire retardant treatment on floor coverings, suspended textile materials, upholstery materials and bedding components, as an equivalence to inherently fire retardant materials, onboard vessels certificated under the Large Commercial Yacht Code.

In order to approve this type of fire protection equivalence, the MCA has to be assured that the fire retardant treatment process, including quality controls, is equivalent to appropriate standards of the IMO Fire Test Procedures Code (FTP Code).

To control the approval of these fire retardant treatments as an equivalent, the MCA has previously produced MCA MGN 453 which is now reviewed following concerns that have been raised by Industry on the practical application of fire retardant coatings used on board large yachts.

Main new aspects are anticipated below:

- The UK Notified Body undertaking the approval shall develop and maintain an online public website showing an updated list of Service Providers with related contact details and fire retardant treatment limitation. The Notified Body shall communicate to MCA the link to this website in order to be published in appendix 3 of the new guidance.
- A new pre-treatment procedure is now requested to avoid potential tampering with the test sample.
- The Service Provider's internal quality system shall be audited by the UK Notified Body on a risk basis with intervals not exceeding 24 months.
- The Service Provider shall maintain a list of vessels to which the fire retardant treatment has been applied. These records shall allow the precise identification of the vessel, date and limitations of the treatment provided.

Feedback is specifically sought on potential issues with the process and on Health & Safety aspects.

The closing date for this consultation is Friday 12th January 2018. Responses to consultations should be sent to consultationsdmss@mcga.gov.uk and clearly labelled as Consultation on Fire Retardant Treatment.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you would like 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. 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.

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

This consultation has been conducted in accordance with the [Cabinet Office - Consultation principles: guidance](#).

If you have any comments regarding the conduct of this consultation please contact the Consultation Co-ordinator at consultation.coordinator@mcga.gov.uk. We are continually trying to improve the way in which we conduct consultations and appreciate your views, so we would also be grateful if you could complete and return the attached feedback form. These should be submitted to the Consultation Co-ordinator and are not affected by the deadline for this consultation.

Yours sincerely,



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