

PART XII

PASSENGER ACCOMMODATION

12.1 General

The following instructions apply to new ships and to existing ships when undergoing modifications to the passenger accommodation so far as is reasonable and practicable.

12.1.1 Design and construction

The accommodation shall be so designed and constructed so as to be capable of withstanding any sea and weather conditions which may be encountered in service having regard to the season and proposed area of operation.

12.1.2 Plans and particulars required

12.1.2.1 For every ship coming under survey for the first time, and whenever alterations are made which affect the number of passengers, all measurements of passenger spaces, cabins and shelters, and the provision of sanitary accommodation must be completed by the surveyor and reported in the ship's file (Form SUR 8A). The report should contain all the dimensions taken in the measurement of passenger spaces, state the number of passengers and where carried, the amount of shelter space provided, and the number and location of water closets separately provided for male and female passengers. The survey should also show the number of water closets provided for male and female crew.

12.1.2.2 The form, after being examined and approved, will be returned to the surveyor who should return it on completion of the case to the Chief Surveyor, to be kept with the other records of the ship.

12.1.2.3 It should be noted that the areas required per passenger specified in Part XII are for guidance purposes only. Should a Surveyor in Charge consider the density per passenger is inappropriate for a particular vessel, a different density may be considered after consultation with Headquarters.

12.1.2.4 If two or more classes of passenger are being carried, the report should show the allocation of accommodation to each class and the number of passengers carried in each class.

12.2 Class III Ships

12.2.1 General

Ships of Class III are required to be decked and subdivided.

12.2.2 Position of passenger accommodation

12.2.2.1 Passengers must not be carried on more than one deck below the waterline.

12.2.2.2 Paint rooms and spaces used for the storage of flammable liquids must not communicate directly with passenger accommodation by doors or passageways, or be so situated as to be in any way a danger to passengers.

12.2.2.3 Passengers should not be accommodated in a space adjoining an oil fuel bunker unless the divisional bulkhead is of all-welded construction. Passenger accommodation may be situated on a deck forming the crown of an oil fuel space provided the deck is oil-tight, the passenger space is well ventilated and contains no manhole or opening to the oil fuel space below, and the deck is coated with a material approved for such positions. (See "Instructions for the Guidance of Surveyors - Survey of Crew Accommodation in Merchant Ships" for details of such deck coatings).

12.2.2.4 Where passenger accommodation is adjacent to cargo spaces, store rooms, lamp rooms, paint rooms or other spaces used for storage of flammable liquids, it must be separated from such spaces by gas-tight steel bulkheads and decks insulated to the appropriate standard as required by the Fire Protection Regulations.

12.2.3 Compartments and decks allowable for passenger measurement

12.2.3.1 The surveyor should only measure spaces which he considers are proper for the accommodation or carriage of passengers.

12.2.3.2 Not more than three decks, including the tops of deckhouses, are to be measured for passengers.

12.2.3.3 The MCA may dispense with this requirement in special cases.

12.2.3.4 Portions of any decks which extend beyond the sides or ends of supporting deck houses or beyond the hull of the ship, or are carried only on stanchions or frames, may be measured if the surveyor is satisfied that the structures are of sufficient strength, and fit for the carriage of passengers. Details of such spaces should be reported in the ship's file (Form SUR 8A).

12.2.3.5 Where passengers are allowed access to the tops of deckhouses, the surveyor should satisfy himself that such structures are of sufficient strength, whether or not the spaces are measured for passengers.

12.2.3.6 That portion of a compartment or deck used for the purpose of navigation is not to be included in the passenger measurements.

12.2.3.7 Forecastle decks must not be included in the measurements, and, in the case of a ship having a combined bridge and forecastle, or having a complete promenade deck, the foremost ordinate of the space measured should not be nearer to the fore side of the stem than one eighth of the ship's length.

12.2.3.8 In paddle-wheeled ships neither the sponsons nor the tops of houses upon the sponsons may be included in the measurement for passengers.

12.2.3.9 Spaces which are set apart exclusively for the carriage of motor vehicles e.g. "special category" spaces on Ro-Ro vehicle/passenger vessels must not be included in the spaces measured for passengers.

12.2.3.10 When the width of a passageway between a deckhouse side and the ship's side rail or bulwark is less than 750mm, that space must not be measured for passengers. Internal passageways should not be measured for passengers, except that where a ship has wide passageways and the surveyor considers that a part of them could be properly measured for passenger accommodation, the MCA may consider waiving this requirement.

12.2.3.11 In well-deck ships, the deck spaces between the forecastle and the raised quarter deck, bridge house or poop as the case may be, must not be included in the measurements for passengers unless the deck is, in the opinion of the surveyor, sufficiently high above the ship's deepest subdivision load line to render it fit for passenger accommodation having regard to the intended service of the ship. The approximate freeboard from the deepest subdivision load line to the lowest portion of the well-deck measured for passengers should in all cases be recorded on the ship's file (Form SUR 8A).

12.2.3.12 Provision should also be made for stowing luggage outside passenger accommodation. Racks or similar convenient stowage should be provided for hand luggage taken into accommodation. Such racks should be arranged in positions where any overspill of luggage would neither block stairways, alleyways or escape routes, nor interfere with access to lifesaving appliances and fire-fighting equipment.

12.2.3.13 In assessing the clear area for enclosed spaces, the space occupied by tables and permanent fittings should be deducted. When built-in seats are fitted to the boundary bulkheads of such spaces the measurements

should be taken from the back of the seats. If seats are not fitted, the measurements should be taken on the floor of the space.

12.2.3.14 For open deck spaces the length of the deck should be measured between points within which the surveyor considers the area fit for the safe and proper accommodation of passengers. Surveyors are reminded, however, that in ships having a combined bridge and forecastle or a complete promenade deck, the foremost ordinate of the space measured should not be nearer to the fore side of the stem than one eighth of the ship's length. The breadths should be taken from the inner edge of gutter waterways, the outboard edge of any raised deck covering, or the inner edge of the side rail whichever is the furthest inboard.

12.2.3.15 Clear area means the area which remains after that occupied by all encumbrances, such as hatchways, skylights, companionways, casings, ventilators, navigating space, luggage lockers, lifesaving appliances carried on the open deck or in lockers etc. has been deducted.

12.2.4 Number of passengers allowed in enclosed spaces

12.2.4.1 The number of passengers allowed should be obtained as follows;

(i) The number of passengers allowed for a passenger space located below the main deck should be determined by dividing the clear area in square metres by 0.85.

(ii) Only one below deck space should be included in the passenger measurements, but two spaces of moderate size may be included subject to approval by the MCA.

(iii) Where the gross area of a passenger space located above the main deck is less than 8.5 square metres, the number of passengers allowed is the clear area in square metres divided by 0.85. Where the gross area is 8.5 square metres or above the number allowed is the clear area in square metres divided by 0.60.

(iv) Where meals are taken by passengers seated at tables in dining rooms or cafeterias, the number of passengers allowed should normally be the number for whom seating is provided. Dining saloons or cafeterias should not be measured for passengers unless the owner confirms in writing that the seating provided in such spaces will be available to passengers at all times including those periods when food is not being served.

(v) In determining the number of passengers the ship is certified to carry, the number allowed for each enclosed space is the lesser of the number given by area or seating.

(vi) Promenade or airing space is not required to be reserved on deck for passengers accommodated in enclosed spaces, but protection from the weather, preferably in enclosed spaces, should be provided at the rate of 0.30 square metres for each person the ship is certified to carry.

(vii) In providing enclosed accommodation and adequate sheltered spaces for deck passengers, due regard should be paid to the requirements of the Fire Protection Regulations in respect of means of escape.

12.2.5 Number of passengers allowed on open decks

12.2.5.1 The number of passengers allowed for the main deck should be determined by dividing the clear area of the deck in square metres by 0.85.

12.2.5.2 Where passengers are allowed access to the tops of deckhouses the surveyor should satisfy himself that such structures are of sufficient strength.

12.2.5.3 When these spaces are to be measured for passengers, the number allowed is the clear deck area in square metres divided by 0.85.

12.2.5.4 Where there are seats located on skylights or companionways the measurements to determine clear deck area may be extended to the back of these seats.

12.2.6 Seating

12.2.6.1 Seating either fixed or portable having attachment either to the deck or a bulkhead is to be provided for each passenger the ship is certified to carry.

12.2.6.2 Where bench seating is provided, seating capacity is to be assessed on the basis of 460mm per person.

12.2.6.3 Seating should be so arranged in enclosed spaces that it does not impede the rapid evacuation of the space in an emergency.

12.2.7 Water closets and urinals

12.2.7.1 When recording the particulars in the ship's 17/01 file the surveyor should report on the number of W.Cs provided for each class of passenger, identifying those which are set apart for male passengers and those set apart for female passengers. The minimum number of public W.Cs to be provided free of charge for each class of passenger carried should be in accordance with the following scale:-

Up to 50 passengers	2 W.Cs
to 100 passengers	3 W.Cs
For each additional 100 passengers or part thereof	1 W.C

12.2.7.2 A urinal or an extra W.C should also be provided for every 100 passengers or part thereof.

12.2.7.3 W.Cs set apart for male passengers should be marked for men and W.Cs set apart for women should be marked for women.

12.2.7.4 Where sanitary accommodation for men or for women is entered directly from an open deck or from a passageway arrangements should be such that privacy is ensured.

12.2.7.5 W.Cs should be adequate in size, clean, well lit, properly ventilated and drained, and effectively protected from the weather and sea.

12.2.8 Deductions when vehicles, cattle or other cargo is carried on deck spaces measured for passengers

12.2.8.1 Enclosed deck spaces set apart exclusively for the carriage of vehicles must not be included in the spaces measured for the determination of passenger numbers.

12.2.8.2 Motor vehicles must not be carried in enclosed spaces measured for passengers without the approval of the MCA.

12.2.8.3 Open deck spaces set apart for the carriage of vehicles may however have the facility to use that deck space for vehicles or fit fixed seating for passengers as appropriate depending on operational demand.

12.2.8.4 When vehicles, cattle or other cargo are carried on any deck space measured for passengers, the number of passengers is to be reduced by one for every 0.60 square metres of main deck, or 0.85 square metres in the case of decks above the main deck, so occupied.

12.2.8.5 If in ships making short passages (less than 30 minutes voyage duration), passengers are allowed to remain in their vehicles, the passenger number must still be reduced in the manner indicated in the paragraph above, if such vehicles occupy space which has been measured for passengers. The number of passengers allowed to remain in their vehicles must not however, be added to the reduced passenger number.

12.2.8.6 Where passengers are allowed to remain in their vehicles in ships making short passages, sufficient clearance should be provided between each lane of vehicles and between the outboard lane of vehicles and the ship side bulwark or rail, or deckhouse side as the case may be, to allow passengers to

escape in an emergency. Clear space must also be arranged to permit the unhindered movement of passengers and crew between assembly points in an emergency.

12.2.8.7 Surveyors should ensure that notices in the following or similar terms are displayed:-

THE DECK AREA BETWEEN THE TRANSVERSE ...* LINES MUST NOT BE OVERSTOWED BY VEHICLES TO PERMIT PASSENGER MOVEMENT BETWEEN ASSEMBLY POINTS IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY.

* insert colour

THERE MUST BE SUFFICIENT CLEARANCE BETWEEN VEHICLES OR OTHER OBSTRUCTIONS TO ENSURE THAT OCCUPANTS CAN READILY VACATE THEIR VEHICLES IN AN EMERGENCY.

12.2.8.8 When visiting such ships in service, surveyors should ensure compliance with these notices is being maintained.

12.2.8.9 The surveyor should draw the attention of the owner or his representative to the advantage of having lines marked on deck spaces measured for passenger numbers, to delineate prescribed areas, thus making it easier to calculate the passenger numbers appropriate to a particular voyage, especially on ships which regularly carry cars and other vehicles.

12.2.9 Marking of deck spaces measured for the determination of passenger numbers

12.2.9.1 Each deck space which is measured for passengers must be marked with a painted notice so placed as to be liable to the passengers at all times, in the following terms:

- (i) "The deck from this mark to the [...] * contains [...] ** square metres and is certified for † passengers when not occupied by cargo, stores or other encumbrances.

12.2.9.2 When cargo, stores or other encumbrances are carried in this space, the number of passengers for which the space is certified is to be reduced by one for every ++ square metres so occupied".

* State the part of the deck to which the measurement in question is taken.

** State the area in square m.

† State the number of passengers for which the space is certified.

++ 0.60 square metres for the main deck and 0.85 square metres for decks above the main deck.

12.2.9.3 If the surveyor is given written confirmation that vehicles, cattle or other cargo are not to be carried on a deck space measured for passengers, that space need not be marked.

12.2.10 Sheathing of steel or other metal decks

12.2.10.1 Steel or other metal decks forming the floors and crowns of enclosed spaces in which passengers are accommodated should be sheathed with wood or with an approved composition. Crowns of passenger accommodation exposed to the weather should either be sheathed with wood 55mm thick, or with an equivalent approved composition, or be insulated on their undersides with an equivalent approved material. The surveyor should refer to Annex 2 of the "Instructions for the Guidance of Surveyors" Survey of Crew Accommodation in Merchant Ships" for details of approved materials to be used for compliance with this paragraph.

12.2.10.2 Wood sheathing less than 55mm in thickness may be allowed on exposed decks forming the crown of passenger accommodation with the approval of the MCA.

12.2.10.3 If the upper surface of exposed steel or metal decks to which passengers have access are not covered by wood sheathing or an approved composition, provision must be made to ensure that the upper surface of the deck affords good and safe foothold in all weather conditions.

12.2.11 Lighting, ventilation and heating

12.2.11.1 All passenger accommodation should be efficiently ventilated and lit at all times with natural lighting being provided wherever practicable. If the surveyor considers that a space is not provided with sufficient light and air it should not be accepted for the accommodation of passengers.

12.2.11.2 Passenger accommodation should be provided with efficient heating arrangements but if the owner considers that the heating of the accommodation is not necessary for the service in which the ship is to be engaged, the MCA may be prepared to waive this requirement.

12.2.12 Fresh water storage and distribution systems

In the examination of proposals for the siting of freshwater tanks and distribution systems the surveyor should be guided by the requirements set out in the "Instructions for the Guidance of Surveyors - Survey of Crew Accommodation in Merchant Ships" and the recommendations to prevent contamination set out in Merchant Shipping Notice No. M.1214, noting that former distinctions between the standards required for drinking water and washing water should not be maintained. The Surveyors attention is also drawn to Merchant Shipping Notice No. M.1401 "Disinfection of Ships Domestic Fresh Water".

12.2.13 Stability

The surveyor should not state in his declaration that a ship is fit to carry a specified number of passengers unless he is satisfied that the ship has sufficient stability and freeboard to carry that number safely. Required minimum standards of stability are detailed in Part V of these Instructions.

12.3 Class IV ships

12.3.1 General

12.3.1.1 Ships of Class IV are required to be decked and subdivided.

12.3.1.2 They are not permitted to ply beyond Category D waters limits as defined in Merchant Shipping Notice No. M.1504.

12.3.1.3 The requirements of paragraphs 12.2.2, 12.2.3, and 12.2.8 to 12.2.13 inclusive apply to Class IV ships.

12.3.2 Number of passengers allowed in enclosed spaces

12.3.2.1 The measurement of enclosed spaces is as set out in paragraph 12.2.3.

12.3.2.2 The number of passengers allowed for a passenger space located below the main deck should be determined by dividing the clear area in square metres by 0.85.

12.3.2.3 Only one below deck space should be included in the passenger measurements, but two spaces of moderate size may be included subject to approval by the MCA. Where the gross area of a passenger space located above the main deck is less than 8.5 square metres, the number of passengers allowed is the clear area in square metres divided by 0.85. Where the gross area is 8.5 square metres or above the number allowed is the clear area in square metres divided by 0.60.

12.3.2.4 Where passenger spaces are situated on the main deck but passengers have access to a higher or a lower deck of considerable area, the restriction at paragraph 12.3.2.3 above need not apply and the clear area in square metres should be divided by 0.30.

12.3.2.5 The restriction imposed at paragraph 12.3.2.3 above need not be applied to small ships and ships exclusively employed as ferries.

12.3.3 Number of passengers allowed on open decks

12.3.3.1 The measurement of open deck spaces is as set out in paragraph 12.2.3 except that:-

12.3.3.2 The number of passengers allowed for the main deck should be determined by dividing the clear area of the deck in square metres by 0.60.

12.3.3.3 Where passengers are allowed access to the tops of deckhouses the surveyor should satisfy himself that such structures are of sufficient strength. When these spaces are to be measured for passengers, the number allowed is the clear deck area in square metres divided by 0.85.

12.3.3.4 Where there are seats located on skylights or companionways the measurements to determine clear deck area may be extended to the back of these seats.

12.3.4 Number of passengers allowed on open decks - winter numbers

The number of passengers determined in accordance with paragraph 12.3.3 should be reduced by one-third for the period 1st November to 31st March inclusive for all open deck spaces not effectively protected against the weather.

12.3.5 Awnings, shelters etc.

12.3.5.1 On a first survey of a new or existing ship, full particulars of any proposed awnings, rigid shelters, or cabins should be included in the plans and particulars required by paragraph 12.1.3.

12.3.5.2 Awnings or shelters, whether rigid or not, should be arranged, wherever possible, to provide protection from the weather for those deck passengers for whom no enclosed accommodation is provided, the arrangements may be approved subject to the surveyor being satisfied that the provision of an awning or shelter would neither hinder the escape of passengers nor prevent the satisfactory deployment of life-saving appliances in an emergency. In ships having awnings or flexible side screens for the protection of passengers in inclement weather, the screens should be capable of being quickly released from the held-down position. In no case should lacing be used to tie-down the screens. The surveyor should be satisfied that the stability will not be unduly affected by such provisions. Particulars of the awnings or shelters fitted should be recorded in the ship's 17/01 file.

12.3.6 Seating

12.3.6.1 Seats, (either fixed or portable) should be provided for all passengers allowed by the Passenger Certificate, but some relaxation from this requirement may be given in the case of ferries or other vessels only making short passages, where the duration of the voyage is not normally more than

30 minutes and where there is sufficient space clear of the seats to accommodate standing passengers. A drawing to scale showing the spaces available for standing passengers should be submitted for consideration as early as is practicable.

12.3.6.2 When examining the seating arrangement referred to above the surveyor should be guided by the following:-

- (i) Suitable clear space should be allowed as gangways for access, assembly and escape, with a minimum width of 750mm being provided.
- (ii) A length of 460mm measured horizontally along the front of each seat shall be allowed for the accommodation of seated passengers.
- (iii) When any space in front of a seat is required for a gangway, the space within 230mm of the front of the seat shall not be taken into account when measuring the width of a gangway.
- (iv) The distance between any part of the back rest of any seat and the back rest of the seat facing it, shall not be less than 1600mm.
- (v) There shall be a clear space of at least 680mm in front of the backrest of any seat measured from the centre of each seat and a clear space of at least 310mm in front of any part of that seat.
- (vi) There shall be a clear space of at least 620mm between any part of the front of a transverse seat, and any part of any other seat which faces it.
- (vii) No seat shall be placed in such a position as to cause discomfort to passengers.

12.3.7 Water closets and urinals

12.3.7.1 Relaxation from the full requirements of paragraph 12.2.7 may be allowed having regard to the particular service and consideration may be given to:

- (i) members of the crew having access also to the sanitary accommodation provided for passengers. All males should have access to any W.C marked for men and all females should have access to any W.C marked for women; and
- (ii) if the maximum length of a voyage is not greater than 30 minutes no W.C's need be provided on board subject to W.C's being provided at the embarkation/disembarkation places, and that notices placed on board the ship remind passengers that there are no toilet facilities on the ship.

12.4 Class V Ships

12.4.1 General

12.4.1.1 Ships of Class V may be decked, partially decked or open and may be permitted to operate in waters of Category A, B and C as defined in Merchant Shipping Notice No. M.1504 depending on the standard of survivability attained and the scale of life-saving appliances carried on board in accordance with Table 1 or Table 2 of Section 1 of Schedule 2 to Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1699(M), as appropriate.

12.4.1.2 The requirements of paragraph 12.2.2 and 12.2.3, 12.2.8 to 12.2.13 inclusive and 12.3.5 to 12.3.7 apply to decked ships of Class V.

12.4.2 Decked ships

12.4.2.1 Number of passengers allowed in enclosed spaces

The measurement of enclosed spaces is as set out in paragraph 12.2.3 except that:

- (i) The number of passengers allowed for a passenger space below the main deck should be determined by dividing the clear area in square metres by 0.85. Only one below deck space should normally be included in the passenger measurement, but two spaces may be included if of moderate size, subject to the approval of the MCA.
- (ii) Where passenger spaces are situated on the main deck, the number of passengers allowed should be determined as follows:-
 - (a) When the whole space available for passengers is only on the main deck, and the gross area of such a space is less than 8.5 square metres, the clear area in square metres should be divided by 0.85.
 - (b) If the gross area is 8.5 square metres or over but less than 25 square metres, the clear area in square metres should be divided by 0.60.
 - (c) If the gross area is 25 square metres or over, the clear area in square metres should be divided by 0.30.
- (iii) Where passenger spaces are situated on the main deck but passengers have access to a higher or a lower deck of considerable area, the restriction at sub-paragraph (c) above need not apply and the clear area in square metres should be divided by 0.30.
- (iv) The restriction imposed at sub-paragraph (c) above need not be applied to small ships and ships exclusively employed as ferries.

(v) Where passenger spaces are situated above the main deck only and are contained on not more than two decks the total number of passengers allowed may be determined by dividing the total combined clear area of the decks in square metres by 0.60 provided that:-

(a) the stability is satisfactory when the passengers are assumed crowded on the uppermost deck at 4 persons per square metre and any remainder are assumed on the deck below the uppermost deck;

(b) escape arrangements are such that the passengers can obtain access to, and assemble on, the deck from which escape would be effected; and

(c) permanent seats are arranged for all passengers, (but where the owner wishes to provide portable seats, a plan should be prepared to establish that the seats can be arranged to accommodate the total number of passengers allowed from area consideration. The total number allowed should be limited to suit the seating arrangement should this prove to be necessary).

For guidance in arranging seating see paragraph 12.3.6.

12.4.2.2 Number of passengers allowed on open decks

The measurement of open deck spaces is as set out in paragraph 12.2.3 except that :-

(i) In determining passenger numbers allowed for open spaces on the main deck, the clear area in square metres should be divided by 0.60. Clear area means the area which remains after that occupied by all encumbrances, such as hatchways, skylights, companions, casings, ventilators, navigating space, luggage lockers, life-saving appliances carried on the open deck or in lockers, fittings for cattle etc., has been deducted.

(ii) The number of passengers allowed for the tops of deckhouses or engine casings should be determined by dividing the clear area in square metres by 0.85.

(iii) No reduction in passenger numbers need be made for the period between 1st November to 31st March inclusive.

12.4.3 Open launches

12.4.3.1 *Space allowed for passenger measurements*

- (i) The forward extremity of the space available for passenger accommodation is to be determined by the surveyor, with due regard to the proper stowage of the anchor and cable and to any other necessary equipment in the bow of the vessel, and the length should be measured from this point to the foreside of the bulkhead separating the motor space from the passenger space.
- (ii) If the motor space is placed amidships an additional space may be available to passengers between the after bulkhead of the motor space and a position near the stern to be determined by the surveyor as suitable having regard to the steering arrangements and fuel tank space.
- (iii) The breadths should be measured at suitable intervals to the back of the side benches, or to the inside of the gunwale, or to the inside of the half-deck (where fitted), whichever measurement is least.
- (iv) The space abreast of the motor may be included in the passenger measurements if the motor is enclosed by a casing or longitudinal bulkheads constructed in accordance with Regulation 108 of the Fire Protection Regulations 1998 and if the distance between the sides of the casing or bulkheads and the backs of the seats is at least 915mm.
- (v) The number of passengers allowable by area is found by dividing the clear space measured as above by 0.30. Allowance should be made for the crew in the measurements.

12.4.3.2 *Number of passengers allowed*

- (i) The number allowable by seating is found by dividing the length in metres of each continuous fixed seat by 0.46, the measurements being taken along the inner edge of the seats. Where buoyant apparatus is used for seating the capacity of each unit is to be calculated separately.
- (ii) The number allowable for each part is the lesser of the numbers given by area and by seating except in the case of short passages where it is clear that the full number as determined by area can safely be carried.

12.4.4 Ships with cockpits and shelters

12.4.4.1 *Space allowed for passenger measurements*

- (i) Vessels which have cockpits and shelters fitted over them should in the first instance be measured as if no shelters were provided. The top of

only one shelter may be measured unless permission to measure more than one is given by the MCA.

(ii) Partly decked ships having the central portion of the main deck raised considerably above the gunwale, should be measured under this paragraph as though having open cockpits. Where, however, owing to the design of the ship the surveyor is of the opinion that any departure from this method of measurement is desirable, full particulars should be submitted for consideration.

12.4.4.2 Number of passengers allowed

As per 12.4.3.2 including the clear area of the top of one shelter which may then be measured for passengers at the rate of one passenger for every 0.85 square metres provided the surveyor is satisfied that the structure is strong enough, the sides are properly protected, and the vessel can meet the survivability standard required by Schedule 2 of Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1699(M) to carry all the passengers who can gain access to the top of the shelter.

12.4.5 Seating

In all open launches and vessels fitted with cockpits and shelters the seating must be so arranged that there will be no serious obstacle to prevent a person from proceeding to the nearest muster/assembly station in the event of an emergency.

12.4.6 Flooring

In the case of open launches and ships with cockpits and shelters, flooring must be provided throughout the vessel. It must be removable to allow for cleaning and inspection, and must allow rapid drainage of water to the bilges. Drain plugs in the skin of the vessel will not be permitted.

12.4.7 Position of helmsman

In accordance with ISO 8468 (Ships Bridge Layout and Associated Equipment) the surveyor should ensure that whatever the design of the vessel the helmsman will at all times have clear all-round visibility, and where possible be afforded maximum protection from the weather.

12.4.8 Miscellaneous equipment

All open vessels, except those fitted with twin screws, must be provided with at least three oars and rowlocks. A bailer, boathook, painter and heaving line shall also be provided.

12.4.9 Stability

12.4.9.1 Decked ships shall comply with the requirements of paragraph 12.2.13.

12.4.9.2 Open and partially decked ships which are required to satisfy a heeling test in accordance with the requirements of Section 3 of Schedule 2, to Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1699(M) are to comply with Appendix B of these Instructions.

12.4.9.3 Open and partially decked ships which are required to satisfy a buoyancy test in accordance with the requirements of Section 4 of Schedule 2, to Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1699(M) are to comply with Appendices B and C of these Instructions.

12.5 **Class VI Ships**

12.5.1 General

12.5.1.1 The requirements of paragraphs 12.2.2, 12.2.3, 12.2.8 to 12.2.13 inclusively, 12.3.5 to 12.3.7 and 12.4.9 apply to Class VI Ships.

12.5.1.2 Ships of Class VI may be decked, partially decked or open and may be permitted to ply, in favourable weather, with up to 250 passengers on board in Category A, B, C and D waters, and to sea for a distance of up to 15 miles from their point of departure, exclusive of any Category A, B, C and D waters, subject to being not more than up to 3 miles from land.

12.5.1.3 The number of passengers allowed to be carried and the distance from point of departure and from land will depend upon the standard of survivability attained and the scale of lifesaving appliances carried on board in accordance with Table 1 or Table 2 of Section 1 of Schedule 2, to Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1699(M), as appropriate. They will only be permitted to operate between sunrise and sunset between 1st April and 31st October inclusive except that:-

(i) ships fitted with navigation lights in accordance with the Distress Signals and Prevention of Collisions Regulations 1996 will be permitted to operate from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset; and

(ii) when Good Friday falls earlier than 1st April the ship may be permitted to commence operating on that day.

12.5.1.4 Ships of this Class may hold Passenger Certificates for more than one set of limits but must not carry passengers from one Class VI plying limit to another. Subject to the surveyor's discretion however, such ships may embark passengers in smooth waters and proceed within Class VI limits, or vice versa, provided the appropriate Passenger Certificates are held.

12.5.1.5 They may call at intermediate points within the limits of the Passenger Certificate subject to the surveyor being satisfied that this can safely be done. The intermediate landing points are to be shown on the Certificate.

12.5.1.6 It will be the surveyor's duty to fix the limits within which the vessel may ply, having regard to its capabilities and the conditions likely to be met. The limits should be so fixed that it will be possible for the vessel to obtain assistance if a breakdown occurs, or to return to shore or shelter if the weather suddenly becomes threatening.

12.5.1.7 In fixing the limits the surveyor should therefore have particular regard to the usual tide and weather conditions, the seaworthy qualities of the vessel, including its freeboard and sheer, the number of passengers to be carried, and the speed, construction, condition and general suitability of the vessel for the intended service.

12.5.1.8 It is left to the discretion of the surveyor to allow limits involving the rounding of prominent headlands, but normally only decked vessels with twin screws will be permitted to do so. Attention must be paid to the availability of safe landing places in the event of the ship getting into difficulties.

12.5.2 Decked ships

12.5.2.1 Number of passengers allowed in enclosed spaces

(i) The number of passengers allowed for a passenger space situated below the main deck should be determined by dividing the clear area in square metres by 0.85. Only one passenger space below the main deck should normally be included in the passenger measurement, but two compartments of moderate size may be included subject to the approval of the MCA.

(ii) The number of passengers allowed for a passenger space located above the main deck should be ascertained by dividing the clear area in square metres by 0.60.

12.5.2.2 Number of passengers allowed on open decks

(i) The number of passengers allowed for open deck spaces should be ascertained by dividing the clear area in square metres by 0.60.

(ii) The number of passengers allowed for the tops of deckhouses or engine casings should be determined by dividing the clear area of deck by 0.85.

(iii) The number of passengers allowed for each part either above deck or below must not however exceed the number for which seating accommodation is provided.

12.5.2.3 Seating

(i) Seating should normally be provided for all passengers carried on board and should be so arranged that there will be no serious obstacle to prevent a person from proceeding to the nearest muster/assembly station in the event of an emergency. (Seats may be fixed or portable).

(ii) In the case of Ro-Ro vehicle/passenger ferries described in paragraph 12.2.8 which only make short passages (less than 30 minutes voyage duration), the requirement to provide a seat for all on board may be relaxed subject to the MCA being satisfied with the arrangements made for the protection and safety of the passengers.

(iii) When examining seating arrangements the surveyor should be guided by the following:-

(a) Suitable clear space should be allowed as gangways for access, assembly and escape, with a minimum width of 750mm being provided.

(b) A length of 460mm measured horizontally along the front of each seat shall be allowed for the accommodation of seated passengers.

(c) When any space in front of a seat is required as a gangway, the space within 230mm of the front of the seat shall not be taken into account when measuring the width of the gangway.

(d) The distance between any part of the back rest of any seat and the back rest of the seat facing it shall not be less than 1600mm.

(e) There shall be a clear space of at least 680mm in front of the backrest of any seat measured from the centre of each seat, and a clear space of at least 310mm in front of any part of that seat.

(f) There shall be a clear space of at least 620mm between any part of the front of a transverse seat and any part of the seat which faces it.

(g) No seat shall be placed in such a position as to cause discomfort to passengers.

12.5.3 Open launches

12.5.3.1 *Spaces allowable for passenger measurement*

(i) The forward extremity of the space available for passenger accommodation is to be determined by the surveyor, with due regard to the proper stowage of the anchor and cable and to any other necessary equipment in the bow of the vessel, and the length should be measured from this point to the foreside of the bulkhead separating the motor space from the passenger space.

(ii) If the motor space is placed amidships an additional space may be available to passengers between the after bulkhead of the motor space and a position near the stern to be determined by the surveyor as suitable having regard to the steering arrangements and fuel tank space.

(iii) The breadths should be measured at suitable intervals to the back of the side benches, or to the inside of the gunwale, or to the inside of the half-deck (where fitted), whichever measurement is least.

(iv) The space abreast of the motor may be included in the passenger measurements if the motor is enclosed by a casing or longitudinal bulkheads constructed in accordance with Regulation 108 of the Fire Protection Regulations 1998 and if the distance between the sides of the casing or bulkheads and the backs of the seats is at least 1000mm.

12.5.3.2 *Number of passengers allowed in open spaces*

(i) The number of passengers allowable by area is found by dividing the clear space measured as above by 0.35.

(ii) Allowance should be made for the crew in the measurements.

12.5.4 Ships with cockpits and shelters

12.5.4.1 *Spaces allowable for passenger measurement*

(i) Vessels which have cockpits and shelters fitted over them should in the first instance be measured as if no shelters were provided. The top of only one shelter may be measured unless permission to measure more than one is given by the MCA.

(ii) Partly decked ships having the central portion of the main deck raised considerably above the gunwale, should be measured under this paragraph as though having open cockpits. Where, however, owing to the design of the ship the surveyor is of the opinion that any departure from this method of measurement is desirable, full particulars should be submitted for consideration.

12.5.4.2 *Number of passengers allowed in open spaces*

- (i) The number of passengers allowable by area is found by dividing the clear space measured as above by 0.35.
- (ii) Allowance should be made for the crew in the measurements.
- (iii) The clear area of the top of one shelter may then be measured for passengers at the rate of one passenger for every 0.85 square metres provided the surveyor is satisfied that the structure is strong enough, the sides are properly protected, and the vessel can satisfy the heeling test in Schedule 2, Section 3 of Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1699(M) to carry all the passengers who can gain access to the top of the shelter.

12.5.5 Seating

12.5.5.1 In open launches and vessels with cockpits and shelters the seating must be so arranged that there will be no serious obstacle to prevent a person from proceeding to the nearest muster/assembly station in the event of an emergency.

12.5.5.2 The number allowable by seating is found by dividing the length in metres of each continuous fixed seat by 0.46, the measurements being taken along the inner edge of the seats. Where buoyant apparatus is used for seating the capacity of each unit is to be calculated separately.

12.5.5.3 The number allowable for each part is the lesser of the numbers given by area and by seating except in the case of short passages where it is clear that the full number as determined by area can safely be carried.

12.5.6 Sheathing of steel or metal decks

12.5.6.1 The floors and crowns of enclosed spaces in which passengers are accommodated should comply with the requirements of paragraph 12.2.10 but wood sheathing less than 55mm thick may be allowed on exposed decks forming the crowns of passenger accommodation subject to the approval of the MCA.

12.5.6.2 Open launches should comply with the requirements of paragraph 12.4.7.

12.5.7 Position of helmsman

The surveyor should ensure that whatever the design of the vessel, the helmsman will at all times have clear all-round visibility, and where possible be afforded maximum protection from the weather.

12.5.8 Miscellaneous equipment

All open vessels, except those fitted with twin screws, must be provided with at least three oars and rowlocks. A bailer, boathook, painter and heaving line shall also be provided.

12.6 **Class VI(A) Ships**

12.6.1 General

12.6.1.1 The requirements of paragraphs 12.2.2, 12.2.3, 12.2.8 to 12.2.13, 12.3.5 to 12.3.7, 12.4.9 and 12.5.2 to 12.5.8, apply to Class VI(A) ships.

12.6.1.2 Ships of Class VI(A) built before 31st October 1992 may be decked, partially decked or open and may be permitted to carry not more than 50 passengers.

12.6.1.3 Ships of Class VI(A) built on or after 31st October 1992 must be fully decked and may be permitted to carry not more than 50 passengers.

12.6.1.4 In both cases they may be permitted to ply for a distance of not more than 6 miles on voyages to and from isolated communities on the islands or coasts of the United Kingdom and at no time more than 3 miles from land.

12.6.2 Number of passenger allowed

The number of passengers allowed should be determined as for a Class VI ship in paragraphs 12.5.2 to 12.5.4 with the total number of passengers not exceeding 50, except that during the winter period, 1st November to 31st March the numbers are to be reduced by one-third in spaces exposed to the weather.

12.6.3 Cargo

Cargo will be allowed only in a space allocated exclusively for that purpose, and the quantity allowed will be regulated by stability, trim and freeboard, the weight being determined in each case by the surveyor to ensure adequate freeboard of the craft when fully loaded with cargo and passengers.