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To those on the attached list

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Your ref:
Our ref: **MS 84/01/86**

22 July 2013

Dear Colleague

Draft Marine Guidance Note - Standards for Non-Passenger Vessels operating solely on Inland Waterways in the United Kingdom

What is this Consultation about?

This consultation letter seeks your comments on the draft Marine Guidance Note attached, concerning the standards applicable to non-passenger vessels which operate solely on inland (ie categorised) waters in the United Kingdom.

Background

The purpose of this Notice is to provide up to date guidance concerning the mandatory safety requirements that apply nationally to inland waterway non-passenger vessels that operate solely in the United Kingdom (UK). This includes details of safety equipment applicable to Class IX(A) and IX(A)(T) vessels and the alternative MCA standards that may be used instead of the main statutory requirements for certain vessels, together with a summary other safety and anti-pollution regulations that may apply to inland waterway non-passenger vessels.

How to respond

The MCA welcomes responses to this consultation which will run for a period of 8 weeks commencing on 22 July until 13 September 2013. Please tell us your views on the issues which you wish to comment on. If you would like further copies of this consultation document, please refer to www.dft.gov.uk/mca under "Current Consultations" in the Ships and Cargoes section of the website.

Please send responses to:

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Vessel Standards Branch
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Spring Place
Southampton
SO15 1EG

Tel: 023 80329120
Fax: 023 80329104
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Please tell us:

Are you responding as an individual or representing the views of an organisation or business?

If the response is on behalf others, then:

- Who do you represent?
- What type and size of organisation or business it is?
- How were your views gathered?
- What types of operations does your organisation or business undertake?
- Are you a company or sole operator and if employing others, then how many?

A list of consultees has been provided to you separately. If you know of others who may wish to be consulted on this proposal, please forward a copy of this letter to them or refer them to the MCA website address given above. You may be our only contact in your organisation so please ensure that the consultation is circulated to the relevant individuals in your organisation.

Freedom of Information Act

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

If you want 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 assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your own 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.

Consultation Criteria

This consultation has been conducted in accordance with the Cabinet Office Consultation Principles Guidance.

Feedback

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.