



The Code of Practice for the Construction and Use of Fishing Vessels of 15m Length Overall to less than 24m Registered Length

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

*This notice should be read with the Fishing Vessels (Codes of Practice) Regulations 20** and replaces MSN 1770, The Code of Safe Working Practice for the Construction and Use of 15m Length Overall to less than 24m Registered Length Vessels.*

Summary

This Notice provides a Code of Practice for the Construction and Use of 15m Length Overall (LOA) to less than 24m Registered Length (L) Vessels and replaces MSN 1770.

The main changes to the Code are as follows:

- Structural modifications to be notified to MCA prior to work taking place;
- Shore power for when crew are living on board whilst in port with fire detection and safety systems operable from shore power;
- Personal Floatation Devices or Lifelines recommended to be worn whilst working on open decks;

A new Annex 4 which replicates the requirements of the Fishing Vessel (Safety Provisions) Rules 1975 that “existing vessels” need to comply with.

The Code also clarifies that EPIRBs shall be capable of transmitting the position obtained from a built-in GPS receiver to a satellite.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This Merchant Shipping Notice is associated with The Fishing Vessels (Code of Practice) Regulations 20** It sets out the full text of the Code of Safe Working Practice for the Construction and Use of 15 metre Length Overall (LOA) to less than 24 metre Registered Length (L) Fishing Vessels (the Code). This Code comes into force on xxxxxxxx.



2.0 Background

2.1 The Regulations give statutory force to the Code and replaces the requirements of the following Regulations as they apply to fishing vessels from 15 metres (LOA) to less than 24 metres (L):

- The Fishing Vessels (Safety of 15-24 Metre Vessels) Regulations 2002;
- The Fishing Vessels (Safety Provisions) Rules 1975;

3.0 The Revised Code

3.1 The Code contained within this MSN sets out the full text of the revision to the previous Code as set out in MSN 1770.

3.2 The Fishing Industry Safety Group have developed this Code as the final part of the review of the Fishing Vessels (Safety Provisions) Rules 1975 and other legislation applicable to fishing vessels. The aim of the review is 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.

4.0 Changes applied to the revised Code

4.1 Based on recommendations from the MAIB and investigations of past accidents the Code requires that extensive repairs, modifications or alterations carried out to the structure or machinery of a vessel, shall only be undertaken after consultation and with the MCA's approval to ensure it complies with the requirements of the Code, as applicable to a new vessel, to the satisfaction of the MCA.

4.2 Due to the numbers of fishermen that have died after falling overboard, the Code also recommends that all crew whilst working on the open deck of a vessel that is underway wear a personal floatation device or a safety harness. This is not a mandatory requirement. 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. MSN 1731 (The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 1999) says that for any work where there is reasonable foreseeable risk of going overboard then a lifejacket or Personal Floatation Device should be worn.

4.3 There is also a requirement that if vessels are using shore power while the crew are living onboard this shall not affect the early warning safety detection systems.

4.4 "Existing Vessels" as defined in the Code shall comply with this Code, including Annex 4.

4.5 The Code also clarifies that EPIRBs shall be capable of transmitting the position obtained from a built-in GPS receiver to a satellite.

5.0 Vessel Owners Responsibility

5.1 To comply with the Code, vessel owners will be required to:

- to meet the requirements for the construction and use of fishing vessels as set out in the Code;



- complete the annual self-certification in the form laid out in Annex 2 of the Code;
- present new vessels for survey during and on completion of construction, or on transfer to the UK Register prior to issue of a UK certificate;
- present the vessel for renewal survey at intervals not exceeding 5 years;
- present the vessel for inspection mid point in the survey cycle;
- to present the vessel for survey prior to completing major repairs or modifications.

More Information

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