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## Construction and Outfit Standards for Fishing Vessels of less than 15m Length Overall

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

*This notice should be read with the Fishing Vessel (Codes of Practice) Regulations 2017 No.943, the Merchant Shipping (Work in Fishing Convention) Regulations 2018 No.1106, MSN1871 Amendment No.1 The Fishing Vessels Code of Practice for the Safety of Fishing Vessels of less than 15m Length Overall and MIN608 (F) MCA New Build Procedures for Fishing Vessels from 21 July 2020.*

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### Summary

This Marine Guidance Note sets out the minimum Construction and Outfit Standards that fishing vessels must comply with when being constructed, repaired, modified or altered.

The Standards also set out requirements for:

- Building premises
- Survey during Construction
- Testing of structures
- Materials

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. As of 21 July 2020, MCA will undertake the survey of new build fishing vessels of less than 24m Registered length to Fishing Vessel Construction and Outfit Standards, following the decision of Seafish to cease this work.
- 1.2. This service is not available for fishing vessels being built for registration or operation as Fishing Vessels in countries other than the United Kingdom.



## 2. Background

- 2.1 New Fishing Vessels of less than 24m Registered Length and registering as a fishing vessel for the first time must be constructed to the recognised standard covering Hull, Machinery, Electrical, and Control systems. This may be either:
- 2.1.1 The Construction and Outfit Standards of a Certifying Authority for Fishing Vessels; or
  - 2.1.2 an equivalent standard recognised by the MCA as suitable for Fishing Vessels, such as those of a Recognised Organisation. Details of Recognised Organisations can be found in MGN322 – Ship Survey Standards.
- 2.2 On first registration of a vessel, the owner must supply the following to the Registry of Shipping and Seamen (RSS). Failure to do so will result in the vessel not being registered:
- Vessels less than 7m length overall
    - Hull construction certificate (MSF 1367)
  - Vessels between 7m length overall and 12m Registered Length
    - Hull construction certificate (MSF 1367), and
    - Outfit compliance certificate (MSF 1368)
  - Vessels between 12m Registered Length and less than 15m length overall
    - Partial declaration (MSF 1326)

## 3. The Standards

- 3.1 These Construction Standards define minimum Fishing Vessel Construction standards for the construction, inspection and certification of the hull, and outfit of small commercial fishing vessels. Particular attention is drawn to Part 1 of these Standards with regard to the definition and scope of MCA certification of any new vessel.
- 3.2 In addition, Designers, Builders, Operators and Owners should ensure that they comply with MSN1871 Amendment No.1 The Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Fishing Vessels of less than 15 Metres Length Overall (or any superceding document) and also such International Convention requirements as may be applicable
- 3.3 **These Construction Standards can be used as guidance to anyone wishing to build a new vessel, but only MCA or a Fishing Vessel Certifying Authority can certify a new fishing vessels to these Standards.**
- 3.4 **All Plan and Drawing Approvals are conducted by the MCA. Furthermore, only MCA can survey fishing vessels of 12m Registered Length and over.**
- 3.5 **Fishing vessels of less than 12m Registered Length may be surveyed by a Fishing Vessel Certifying Authority which has a signed and valid a Fishing Vessel Certifying Authority Agreement with the MCA.**
- 3.6 These standards shall also be used when modifying, repairing or altering a vessel.



#### **4. Review Process**

- 4.1 These Standards were originally developed by the Marine Survey Department of the Sea Fish Industry Authority (Seafish) through close consultation between the MCA, (Maritime and Coastguard Agency, an Executive Agency of the Department of Transport), Specialist Marine Equipment Manufacturers, Fishing Vessel Builders, and Fishing Industry Representatives, under the direction of a Standards Review Committee.
- 4.2 These Standards will now be reviewed by the Fishing Vessel Construction Standards Working Group at intervals not exceeding five years to take into account experience gained in their application, and any new statutory requirements will be applied to new vessels as applicable to these Standards.
- 4.3 Where new standards are developed and finalised by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), European Union (EU), the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), International Standards Organisation (ISO) or British Standards (BS) which impact upon the requirements of these Standards, amendment may be considered immediately and implemented by means of a Marine Information Note (MIN).

#### **5. How you can contact us**

- 5.1 For guidance on the process for Plan Approval, please see the Fishing Vessel Instructions to Surveyors Chapter 1 Annex 24 – New Build Fishing Vessel Survey Guidance from 21 July 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-build-fishing-vessel-survey-guidance-from-21-july-2020-less-than-24m-registered-length>

#### **6. Construction Process**

- 6.1 Addresses, telephone numbers (including those with twenty-four hour answering machines) and faxes for all our Marine Survey offices are given in <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency/about/access-and-opening>

#### **7. Complaints**

- 7.1 If you have a complaint then please see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency/about/complaints-procedure>



## More Information

Technical Services Ship Standards Branch  
Maritime and Coastguard Agency  
Bay 2/22  
Spring Place  
105 Commercial Road  
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SO15 1EG

Tel: +44 (0) 203 8172454  
e-mail: [fishing@mca.gov.uk](mailto:fishing@mca.gov.uk)

Website Address: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency)

General Enquiries: [infoline@mca.gov.uk](mailto:infoline@mca.gov.uk)

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