

Fishing Vessel Construction and Outfit Standards

Less than 15m LOA

INTRODUCTION

IMPORTANT NOTE

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.

In addition, Designers, Builders, Operators and Owners should ensure that they comply with the relevant Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Fishing Vessels of less than 15m Length Overall and also such International Convention requirements as may be applicable.

Introduction

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 commercial fishing vessel to these Standards.

From 30 October 2023, fishing vessels of less than 15m Length Overall (LOA) may have their Plans Approved and may be surveyed by a Fishing Vessel Certifying Authority which has a signed and valid a Fishing Vessel Certifying Authority Agreement with the MCA which has been extended to vessels of 15m LOA – for either or both of these functions.

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 on which the following organisations were represented:-

Shipbuilders and Shiprepairers Association
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations
Northern Ireland Fishermen's Federation
Scottish Fishermen's Federation

These Standards will 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.

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).

How you can contact us

Contacting MCA

If you intend to build a vessel for registration as a UK commercial fishing vessel, you must first submit a completed MSF 1356 Notice of Intent to Build to the Marine Office closest to where the vessel is to be built. A list of Marine Offices can be found on the following link:

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

Addresses, telephone numbers (including those with twenty-four hour answering machines) and emails for our Marine Offices are given here: [offices](#)

Plan Approval Process

Before building a vessel, drawing approval is required for the vessel intended to be built. Please refer to [Fishing vessel certifying authorities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) for details of Fishing Vessel Certifying Authorities and their current authorisations with MCA.

Please contact your chosen FVCA directly for details of how to apply for Plan Approval, and the process to be followed.

Construction Process

One approved plans are in place, your chosen FVCA can advise on the requirements for inspections and surveys which will be required before and during construction and outfit.

Additional Information

If you would like the drawing approval to be dealt with separately, such as when multiple vessels are to be built from the same set of drawings, or where the build and outfit will be carried out by different companies, your chosen FVCA will be able to advise on the specific process to be followed.

Complaints

If you have a complaint relating to the services provided by a Fishing Vessel Certifying Authority, you should direct this to the FVCA in the first instance.

If you have a complaint with the service provided by MCA then please see:

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

**CONSTRUCTION
STANDARDS
for
new fishing vessels
less than 15 metres
length overall**

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