



New Safety Requirements for Local Pleasure Vessels

1) First Aid Kits

From the 1st of April 2021, all pleasure vessels licenced to carry more than 12 passengers that are let for hire or reward shall have on-board a suitable first aid kit as stipulated in “Code of Practice IV” Chapter X - Part 2.

2) Life Saving Appliances

From the 1st of April 2021, the following three categories of vessels shall carry sufficient number of lifebuoys for the maximum number of persons that the vessel is licenced to carry.

- a) A Class IV vessel that is licensed before 1 August 2020 to carry not more than 60 passengers and is let for hire or reward (except a Class IV open cruiser);
- b) A Class IV vessel that is an open cruiser licenced to carry not more than 60 passengers and is let for hire or reward. (This requirement is exempted if the passengers on board the vessel wear suitable lifejackets while the vessel is underway); or
- c) A Class IV vessel of more than 150 GRT and is licensed before 1 August 2020.

3) Very High Frequency (VHF) Equipment (Effective date to be announced by the Gazette)

A pleasure vessel that is licenced to a) carry 13 to 60 passengers and is let for hire or reward; or b) carry more than 60 passengers, shall be equipped with a piece of VHF Radio equipment with a relevant licence issued by the Communications Authority.

The operator of the VHF radio equipment must have an operator’s certificate issued by the Communications Authority.

4) New Vessel Inspection Regime for Class IV vessels over 24 meters in length

From 1st of August 2020, all Class IV vessels that are over the length of 24 meters shall have a valid “Certificate of Inspection” or “Certificate of Survey”.

5) Director’s Endorsement

From 1st of August 2021, Class IV vessel let for hire or reward is required to obtain prior approval from the Director of Marine. In addition to existing requirements, which require charter agreement/hire-purchase agreement; certificate of inspection/certificate of survey and the policy of insurance to be kept on board, an endorsement on the vessel’s operating licence is required, showing that approval for the vessel to be let for hire or reward has been given by the Director of Marine.

For enquiries, please contact the Local Vessels Safety Section of the Marine Department at 2852 4931 during office hours.

January 2021