



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

The Fishing Vessels Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Fishing Vessels

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

This Notice amends MSN 1756 (F), the Fishing Vessels Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Fishing Vessels under 12 metres in length and should be read in conjunction with the Fishing Vessels (Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Fishing Vessels) Regulations SI 2001 No.9 and the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) Regulations SI 1997 No.2962, as amended.

Summary

This notice amends Merchant Shipping Notice MSN1756 (F). MSN 1756 set out the requirements of the Fishing Vessels (Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Fishing Vessels) Regulations 2001 which has been amended by the Fishing Vessels (Safety of 15-24 Metre Vessels) Regulations 2002 and incorporates the new checklists requirements for fishing vessels between 12 metres registered length (L) and less than 15 metres length overall (LOA).

1. This Merchant Shipping Notice contains amendments to MSN 1756 (F) - The Fishing Vessels Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Fishing Vessels under 12 metres in length (the Small Fishing Vessel Code). It sets out revised sections of the Small Vessel Code and new checklist requirements for fishing vessels between 12 metres registered length and less than 15 metres length overall, which were formerly regulated by the Fishing Vessels (Safety Provision) Rules 1975.
2. The Fishing Vessel (Safety of 15-24 metre Vessels) Regulations 2002 bring into force the Code of Safe Working Practice for the Construction and Use of 15 metre (LOA) to 24 metre (L) Fishing Vessels and amend the Fishing Vessel (Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Fishing Vessels) Regulations to include vessels of less than 15 metres length overall.
3. No changes have been made to the requirements for vessels of under 12 metres.
4. The Regulations and the Codes have been introduced following consultation with industry and other interested bodies. It represents the second stage of a wider review of requirements aimed at increasing the safety of fishing vessels and survival of the crew in the event of an accident.
5. To comply with the Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Fishing Vessels, a vessel owner will be required:
 - to carry safety equipment on the vessel appropriate to its length and construction;
 - to complete, or arrange for the completion of, an assessment of the health and safety risks arising in the normal course of work activities or duties on the vessel in accordance with the provisions of the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessel (Health and Safety at Work) Regulations 1997;
 - to certify annually that the vessel complies with the Code, by declaring that the safety equipment has been properly maintained

and serviced in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations and that an appropriate and up to date health and safety risk assessment has been completed; and

- to present the vessel for inspection by the MCA in accordance with the provisions of the Code.
6. Additionally, the owner of a new vessel should ensure that the vessel is constructed in accordance with the Construction Standards issued by the Seafish Industry Authority (SIFA or Seafish) or an equivalent standard recognised by the MCA.
7. The following amendments are made to the Code of Practice contained in MSN 1756:

.1 Paragraph 2.5 shall be inserted and read

"Following development of the Code of Safe Working Practice for the Construction and Use of 15 metre (LOA) to less than 24 metre (L) Fishing Vessels, and after extensive consultation with industry, it was agreed that the Code of Practice for Small Fishing Vessels should be extended to cover Fishing vessels of less than 15 metres length overall."

.2 Paragraph 3.2 shall be inserted and read

"The Code will also apply from 23 November 2002 to all United Kingdom registered vessels with a length overall of less than 15 metres."

.3 Paragraph 4.1.1 shall be amended to read

"To carry safety equipment on the vessel appropriate to its length and construction (i.e. open or decked). Checklists are at ANNEX 1.2 to 1.6."

.4 Paragraph 5.1 shall be amended to read

"New fishing vessels, defined as those:

.1 with a registered length of less than 12 metres for which a keel was laid or construction or lay-up was started after 1st April 2001; or

.2 those with a length of less than 15 metres overall for which a keel was laid or construction or lay-up was stated after 23 November 2002,

must comply with the Construction Standards issued by Seafish or an equivalent standard recognised by MCA. A certificate showing compliance with the Seafish standards or an equivalent standard must be issued by the construction standard authority on completion of build."

.5 Paragraph 5.3 shall be amended to read

"The owner of every existing fishing vessel with a length of less than 15 metres length overall must ensure that the vessel complies with the checklist of requirements appropriate to the length and construction of the vessel, that a health and safety risk assessment has been completed, and that a self-certification declaration has been completed."

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Department for
Transport

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THE FISHING VESSELS CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE SAFETY OF SMALL FISHING VESSELS

From the date of introduction of the Fishing Vessels 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, this Code will include vessels from 12 metres up to 15 metres length overall.

All previous references to under 12 metres registered length will now read under 15 metres length overall and apply to the whole Code.

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Effective from 23 November 2002

**CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE SAFETY OF SMALL FISHING VESSELS:
CHECK LIST OF REQUIREMENTS**

DECKED Vessels 12m and above Registered Length to less than 15m Length Overall

ITEM	Remarks/compliance	Expiry/Service Date
Lifejackets - 1 per person		
Liferafts		
2 Lifebuoys (1 with 18m buoyant line attached) or 1 Lifebuoy (fitted with 18m buoyant line) +1 Buoyant Rescue Quoit		
3 Parachute flares		
2 Hand-held flares		
1 Smoke Signal (buoyant or handheld)		
1 Fire bucket + Lanyard		
1 Multi-purpose Fire Extinguisher (fire rating 5A/34B)		
1 Fire Blanket (light duty) in galley or cooking area (if applicable)		
1 Fire Pump + Hose or 1 Fire Bucket + 1 Multi-purpose Fire Extinguisher (fire rating 5A/34B) + 1 fixed Fire Extinguishing system for the machinery space		
1 Multi-purpose Fire Extinguisher for oil fires (fire rating 13A/113B)		
VHF Radio - fixed or hand held		
Bilge Pump		
Bilge Alarm		
Navigation Lights & Sound Signals		
Compass		
Waterproof Torch		
Medical Kit		

Notes:

- (i) Equipment need not be MCA approved provided it is fit for its intended purpose.
- (ii) "Decked vessels" means a vessel with a continuous watertight weather deck that extends from stem to stern and has positive freeboard throughout, in any condition of loading the vessel.
- (iii) VHF using DSC is highly recommended in view of cessation of the Coastguard's Channel 16 dedicated headset watch on 1st February 2005.

**CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE SAFETY OF SMALL FISHING VESSELS:
CHECK LIST OF REQUIREMENTS**

OPEN Vessels 12m registered length and above to less than 15m Length Overall

ITEM	Remarks/compliance	Expiry/Service Date
Lifejackets - 1 per person		
2 Lifebuoys (1 with 18m buoyant line attached) or 1 Lifebuoy (with 18m buoyant line) +1 Buoyant Rescue Quoit		
3 Parachute Flares		
2 Hand-held Flares		
1 Smoke Signal (buoyant or hand held)		
1 Fire Bucket + Lanyard		
1 Multi-purpose Fire Extinguisher (fire rating 5A/34B)		
1 Fire Blanket (light duty) in galley or cooking area (if applicable)		
1 Fire Pump + Hose or 1 Fire Bucket		
1 Multi-purpose Fire Extinguisher for oil fires (fire rating 13A/113B)		
VHF Radio – fixed or hand held		
Bilge Pump		
Navigation Lights & Sound Signals		
Compass		
Waterproof Torch		
Medical Kit		

Notes:

- (i) Equipment need not be MCA approved provided it is fit for its intended purpose.
- (ii) VHF using Digital Selective Calling (DSC) is highly recommended in view of cessation of the Coastguard's Channel 16 dedicated headset watch on 1st February 2005.

