

Small fishing vessels – Help shape changes



Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency

Introducing a new Code of Practice: Small fishing vessels only

Over the last 10 years, 46 people have died on small fishing vessels, so the MAIB have made several recommendations to improve your safety and make the water a safer place for all fishermen.

What this means for you

Some recommendations came into force in 2017 under a new Code, MSN1871. To address the others, the Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) have been developing a new Code of Practice for Small Fishing Vessels.

The Code proposes new requirements for all vessels in:

- Construction, watertight and weathertight integrity
- Stability
- Machinery
- Electrical installations
- Crew protection
- Man overboard recovery



Have your say

There will be a public consultation in Autumn where you can help shape the new Code by telling us what you think. If you would like to receive a reminder when the consultation is live, please request an email alert by visiting:

www.gov.uk/search/policy-papers-and-consultations.

To find out more

The MCA will be hosting a roadshow around the UK so you can come along and ask questions. To find out when we will be visiting your area, follow us on Facebook or Twitter for updates.

 @MCA  @MCA_media

A reminder about ILO 188: For all vessels

On 31 December 2018, new regulations came into force introducing requirements for:

- Responsibility for operation of the vessel
- Medical certificates
- Training
- Manning and hours of rest
- Crew lists and work agreements
- Recruitment
- Payments
- Accommodation, food and water
- Medical care and repatriation



Key changes for everyone

There are two key changes that apply to all vessels that you need to know about:

- Health and safety requirements, including risk assessments, apply to everyone including share fishermen
- You must conduct a written risk assessment which considers man overboard and if the risk of going overboard cannot be ruled out, you must wear PFDs.

Next steps

We recommend that you read the full regulations and guidance on how they apply online: www.gov.uk/government/collections/ilo-work-in-fishing-convention.

Safety Folder

To help you comply, the fishing industry have developed a free Safety Folder. As well as addressing ILO188, it also helps manage crew certification, provides reminders for servicing and maintenance, and gives access to M-Notices. To set up a folder, please visit: www.safetyfolder.co.uk.



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Fishing training and certification regulations: UK review

We are also reviewing all fishermen's training and certification regulations. This will include ratifying the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW – F), which is already in force. This means that the UK would be signed up to the safety standards set out in this convention.

We aim to update and modernise the UK's training and examination system for fishermen so we can enhance skills and improve safety, while considering the needs of the fishing industry and international regulations.

Public consultation

The public consultation will be live in Autumn. To be added to the consultation list, please email: exams@mcga.gov.uk.



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