

GENERAL DIRECTION – REGISTRATION OF SMALL COMMERCIAL CRAFT

For the purpose of promoting or securing conditions conducive to the ease, convenience or safety of navigation and the safety of persons and property in the harbour, Poole Harbour Commissioners seek to ensure that all commercial craft operating within Poole Harbour are properly maintained, equipped and manned and used only for purposes for which they are capable.

With immediate effect therefore, all operators of commercial vessels working in Poole Harbour are required to register their craft with Poole Harbour Commissioners by completing the relevant registration form. Registration must then be renewed on an annual basis. Any vessel that is certificated for commercial use under any:

- Small Commercial Vessel Code;
- Workboat Code; or
- Passenger Boat Code

or licensed by Poole Borough Council under section 94 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 must provide the Harbour Master with a copy of the relevant certificate of compliance or licence.

Where a commercial vessel is not certificated for commercial use under any of the above codes of practice or licensed by Poole Borough Council, Poole Harbour Commissioners may, if deemed appropriate, conduct inspections of such craft and request owners to provide copies of manufacturer's handbooks or other similar information. Where such an inspection indicates that a vessel is not properly maintained, equipped (by reference to MGN 469 or any subsequent replacement or amendment) or manned (by reference to MSN 1853 or any subsequent replacement or amendment) or is being used for a purpose for which it is not capable this, and any proposed restrictions on the vessel's use, will be recorded and discussed with the vessel's owner and/or operator and, where appropriate, Poole Borough Council and/or the MCA.

Commercial vessels for the purposes of this Direction mean any vessel which is less than 24 metres in load line length and is not a pleasure vessel. A pleasure vessel is:

- any vessel which is used solely for sport or pleasure by its owners (or the owners' immediate family or friends) or, where the owner is a body corporate, employees or officers of the owner (or their immediate family or friends) on voyages or excursions for which the owner does not receive money for or in connection with operating the vessel or carrying any person, other than as a contribution to the direct expenses of the operation of the vessel incurred during the voyage or excursion; or
- any vessel wholly owned by or on behalf of a members' club formed for the purpose of sport or pleasure which, at the time it is being used, is used only for the sport or pleasure of members of that club or their immediate family, and for the use of which any charges levied are paid into club funds and applied for the general use of the club,

as more particularly defined in the Merchant Shipping (Vessels in Commercial use for Sport or Pleasure) Regulations 1998, as amended.

Anyone who fails to comply with this general direction shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.