

**PART 13**

**RECOMMENDATIONS AND STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

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## RECOMMENDATIONS AND STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

### Section 13.1 - Safety equipment

13.1.1 The requirements for safety equipment are to be as listed in the MCA "Code Of Practice for the Safety of Small Fishing Vessels" MSN 1756(F) and MSN 1756(F) Amendment No. 1, and any subsequent revisions or amendments made to the abovementioned Code of Practice.

13.1.2 The Code lists the minimum requirements for the following items:-

- (i) lifesaving appliances
- (ii) distress signals/pyrotecnics
- (iii) fire-fighting equipment
- (iv) radio equipment
- (v) bilge pumping
- (vi) navigation equipment
- (vii) medical kit.

13.1.3 The specification, type, location on vessel, etc, for statutory equipment is to be to the requirements of the Surveyor.

### Section 13.2 - Stability general

13.2.1 It is the responsibility of Owners and Skippers under safety legislation to use all reasonable means to ensure fishing vessels go to sea in a seaworthy state. Adequate stability and freeboard contribute greatly to a vessel's seaworthiness and survival capabilities in extreme conditions.

13.2.2 Information gathered from casualties to small fishing vessels shows that, in many cases, insufficient attention has been given to matters of stability and freeboard, and this can be avoided if care is taken to ensure that a vessel is suitable for its intended mode of fishing and the area in which it will operate.

13.2.3 For any new vessel, stability should be properly assessed by a person having appropriate professional experience. Alterations of more than a minor nature should not be made to fishing gear, structure or ballast without first checking to confirm that the vessel's stability characteristics and freeboard are not reduced below acceptable standards.

13.2.4 For certain vessels built under these Standards, there are statutory stability criteria and associated requirements. For other vessels, Seafish, Industry Representatives, and Regulatory Authorities are working to develop appropriate practical guidance and advice.

### Section 13.3 – Stability statutory requirements

13.3.1 The stability requirements for vessels of 12m Registered Length to less than 15m Length Overall are to comply with the statutory provisions of

MSN 1770(F) "The Code of Safe Working Practice for the Construction and Use Of 15m Length Overall to less than 24m Registered Length Fishing Vessels". These requirements specify not only the stability criteria to be met, but also the drawing up of a 'trim and stability' booklet which gives the Skipper information and guidance on the safe loading of the vessel to satisfy those criteria over a range of loading situations.

- 13.3.2 Trim and stability booklets for new vessels are normally drawn up by the Designer or Builder in association with the Owners and Skipper. This ensures that the vessel's proposed mode of operation, together with any limitations, are properly reflected in the booklet. When the completed vessel's weight characteristics have been determined by a lightship check and inclining test, the booklet is to be submitted to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) for approval.
- 13.3.3 Every vessel to which this requirement applies should have scales of draughts permanently and clearly marked in metric units on the sides of the vessel at the bow, and where they can be easily read at the stern.
- 13.3.4 The datum and longitudinal positioning of the draught marks should be indicated by means of sketches in the vessel's trim and stability manual, similarly the position of the datum for the vessel's hydrostatics data should be correlated to the position of the draught marks datum. The positioning and accuracy of the draught marks should be verified by the certifying Surveyor.
- 13.3.5 A lightship check and inclining test to establish the vessel's lightship particulars are to be carried out by the Builder on completion. The Surveyor is to be advised regarding time and location for these checks.

#### **Section 13.4 – Stability recommendations**

- 13.4.1 For vessels of 10m LOA to under 12m RL, Seafish strongly recommend that the statutory provisions referred to above also be applied. Meeting the published criteria and providing the proper guidance to Skippers will ensure that in respect of stability and freeboard, Owners will meet their safety obligations.