



CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

for

**New fishing vessels less than
15 metres length overall**

SEA FISH INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

Produced and published by the

SEA FISH INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

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ISBN 0 903941 07 4

IMPORTANT NOTE

These Construction Standards define minimum Seafish standards for the design, construction, inspection and certification of the hull, and outfit of small commercial fishing vessels. Particular attention is drawn to Part 1 of these Standards with regard to the definition and scope of Seafish certification of any new vessel.

In addition, Designers, Builders, Operators and Owners should ensure that they comply with the requirements of Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1756(F) – “The Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Fishing Vessels under 15 Metres in Length” as amended, and also such International Convention requirements as may be applicable.

Introduction

These Construction Standards can be used as guidance to anyone wishing to build a new vessel, but only a Seafish Marine Surveyor can certify a new vessel to these Standards.

The Sea Fish Industry Authority (Seafish), established under the Fisheries Act 1981, has statutory duties defined by that Act as among other things: *“promoting the efficiency of the seafood industry so as to serve the interests of that industry as a whole”*, giving effect to directions from Ministers, or acting as their agents if so required.

Seafish is directed in its activities by a Board, appointed by Ministers under the provisions of that Act, with eight of its twelve members drawn from various industry sectors, and the remaining four, including the chair, independent of any financial or commercial interest in the industry. In developing the programme of Seafish activities, they are assisted by advisory committees, chaired by a Board Member, covering aquaculture, economics, marketing, technology and training.

In small fishing vessels there are many differing designs, materials and methods of construction. Methods of fishing, duration of voyages, operating distances and operational procedures also vary greatly. Seafish Construction Standards for commercial fishing vessels of less than 15 metres length overall (LOA) relate especially to the construction and fitting out of new fishing vessels. Compliance with these or equivalent standards, is a requirement to register a new vessel under the MCA Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Fishing Vessels, with effect from 1 April 2001.

Seafish Standards have been developed by the Marine Survey Department of the Sea Fish Industry Authority (Seafish) through close consultation between the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), (an executive agency of the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions), Specialist Marine Equipment Manufacturers, Fishing Vessel Builders, and Fishing Industry Representatives, under the direction of a Standards Review Committee on which the following organisations were represented:-

British Boatbuilders' Association
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations
Northern Ireland Fishermen's Federation
Scottish Fishermen's Federation

These Standards will be reviewed at intervals not exceeding five years to take into account experience gained in their application.

Where new standards are developed and finalised by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), European Union (EU), the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) or International Standards Organisation (ISO) which impact upon the requirements of these Standards, amendment may be considered immediately.

How you can contact us

Addresses, telephone numbers (including those with twenty-four hour answering machines) and faxes for all our Marine Survey offices are given below.

Edinburgh Administration

Sea Fish Industry Authority
Marine Survey Department
18 Logie Mill
Logie Green Road
Edinburgh, EH7 4HS

Telephone: 0131 524 8678 Fax: 0131 558 1442
e-mail: j_anderson@seafish.co.uk

Peterhead North Scotland and Islands to Edinburgh

Sea Fish Industry Authority
PO Box 18602
Peterhead, AB42 1YQ

Telephone/Fax: 01779 474416
e-mail: b_wilson@seafish.co.uk

Hull East Coast, North of Thames to Edinburgh, West Coast, Scottish Borders to North Wales and Northern Ireland

Sea Fish Industry Authority
Marine Survey Department
Seafish House
St Andrew's Dock
Hull

East Riding, HU3 4QE
Telephone: 01482 327837 Fax: 01482 223310
e-mail: t_tait@seafish.co.uk
e-mail: r_blackhurst@seafish.co.uk
e-mail: d_dewick@seafish.co.uk

Brixham South of Thames to South West and Wales

Sea Fish Industry Authority
PO Box 50
Brixham
Devon, TQ5 8XZ

Telephone/Fax: 01803 883363
e-mail: r_watts@seafish.co.uk

Our offices are normally staffed between 8.45am and 5.00pm (Monday to Friday) although, as some staff may work irregular hours, smaller offices may not always be open at these times.

Application for Survey

Application forms can be obtained from any of the Marine Survey offices listed. Completed application forms should be returned to the Administrator at the Edinburgh office. All applications outwith the UK contact the Administrator at the Edinburgh office.

Standards of service

We will ensure that:-

- Telephone calls are answered promptly during working hours. If the person you speak to cannot deal with your enquiry in full, you will be referred to someone who can. If necessary we will call you back;
- Correspondence from you is answered within fifteen working days of receipt. If this cannot be done we will acknowledge your letter within the deadline, explain why a detailed response is delayed, and let you know when you may expect one;
- If the matter you raise cannot be dealt with by us, we will explain the position, and if possible, put you in direct contact with whoever is most likely to be able to help you;
- If you make an appointment with us (or we make an arrangement to meet you) we will do all we can to keep it. If, exceptionally, we are forced to cancel, we will arrange a new appointment at a mutually convenient time.

Information

We will assist you whenever we can by providing information about:-

- Our Marine Safety Services department;
- Our promotional activities;
- The Quality Award Scheme;
- Training opportunities for all sectors of the workforce both at sea and onshore;
- The Government grant schemes to assist fishermen;
- Fisheries Development Centre;
- Results of project work.

Courtesy and helpfulness

We will always be courteous and try to help you.

We will identify ourselves by name when we meet, talk or write to you. Where appropriate we will also wear name badges or provide nameplates at meetings we organise.

Consultation

We will carry out regular surveys to find what you think of our service and how we might improve it. If you have any view on the service we provide we would like to hear from you. If you think our service could be better, it is important that you tell us, as information you provide will help us to provide improved service in the future. You can do this either over the telephone, by letter, or by facsimile.

Complaints

If you have a complaint about the way we operate or the services that we provide you can tell us by telephone, in writing, by facsimile, or in person.

All complaints should be addressed to:-

Marine Safety Services Manager
Sea Fish Industry Authority
Seafish House
St Andrew's Dock
Hull
East Riding
HU3 4QE

Telephone: 01482 327837
Fax: 01482 223310

This matter will be investigated and you should expect a written reply within three weeks.

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