

Marine Notice No. 05 of 2013

Notice to all owners/operators of passenger ships and boats

Accessible Passenger Vessels – The Voluntary Approach

This Marine Notice is primarily addressed to passenger ship/boat owners/operators. The purpose of this Marine Notice is:

1. To encourage owners/operators of passenger ships/boats to continue with their voluntary efforts to improve the accessibility of maritime passenger transport services.
2. To remind owners and operators of passenger ships/boats of the Department's ongoing monitoring programme during 2013 to assess how the voluntary approach to accessibility is progressing.

As part of the Department's efforts to promote public transport accessibility, throughout 2012 the Marine Surveyors of the Department asked owners/operators of passenger ships and boats to answer the accessibility questions listed on the questionnaire attached to [Marine Notice No. 18 of 2012](#). The answers to the questionnaire are helping to inform the Department about the extent of the accessibility improvements that have been introduced to maritime passenger transport services, and will assist the Department in determining whether a mandatory regulatory approach to accessibility will be needed in the future.

The Department is grateful for the co-operation received to date and requests continued assistance throughout 2013. A slightly amended questionnaire has been prepared, which can be found [here](#). The amendments have been made to clarify the information required by the Department. As in 2012, the questionnaire can be completed at the time of annual survey or in the context of the grant or renewal of passenger boat licences. The questionnaire can be printed off, filled in and returned to the Department for the attention of Lorraine McGurk, Maritime Safety Policy Division, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Floor 4, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, or completed online and emailed to lorrainemcgurk@dtas.ie.

Information and suggestions for improving the accessibility of passenger services are contained in the [“Guidelines for Accessible Maritime Passenger Transport”](#) booklet produced by this Department and the National Disability Authority (NDA) in 2010. It is available to download or view free of charge on the Maritime Section of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport website www.dttas.ie and on the NDA website www.nda.ie. There are always improvements, no matter how small, that can be made to improve accessibility in existing ships. Examples of some cost-effective adjustments are: improved pre-journey information, suitable signage, use of contrasting paint colours, removal of access barriers and disability awareness training.

Director General,
Maritime Safety Directorate,
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport,
Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, Ireland.

28/01/2013

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice, please contact:
The Marine Survey Office, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, tel: +353-(0)1-678 3400.
For general enquiries, please contact the Maritime Safety Policy Division, tel: +353-(0)1-678 3418.
Written enquiries concerning Marine Notices should be addressed to:
Maritime Safety Directorate, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, Ireland.
email: marinenotices@dtas.ie or visit us at: www.dttas.ie