



## Marine Notice No. 32 of 2007

**FOR THE ATTENTION OF ALL OWNERS/OPERATORS OF FISHING VESSELS OF  
15m IN LENGTH OVERALL AND OVER BUT LESS THAN 24m IN LENGTH**

### **NEW SAFETY REGULATIONS FOR FISHING VESSELS OF 15m IN LENGTH OVERALL AND OVER BUT LESS THAN 24m IN LENGTH**

The Minister for Transport has introduced new Regulations entitled *Merchant Shipping (Safety of Fishing Vessels) (15-24 Metres) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 640 of 2007)*. These Regulations introduce new requirements to enhance the safety of fishing vessels and their crew in the 15 to 24 metre length category. The Regulations are available on the Department of Transport website [www.transport.ie](http://www.transport.ie). Hard copies are available from the Maritime Safety Directorate and from the Government Publications Sale Office, Sun Alliance House, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2.

#### **Consultation**

These Regulations were the subject of a consultation process with the fishing industry and other interested parties and comments received during the consultation process were taken into consideration.

#### **Main provisions of the Safety of Fishing Vessels (15-24 Metres) Regulations**

- The Regulations apply to mechanically propelled fishing vessels of 15 metres in length overall ( $L_{oa}$ ) and over but less than 24 metres in length ( $L$ ) as defined in the Regulations, which are registered in the State. There are approximately 200 fishing vessels in this category.
- The Regulations will come into effect as follows:
  - (i) on 1 October 2007 for new vessels, (“new vessel” means a vessel the keel of which is laid or which is at a similar stage of construction on or after 1 October 2007);
  - (ii) on 1 October 2008, for existing vessels the keel of which was laid on or after 1 October 1997;
  - (iii) on 1 October 2009, for existing vessels the keel of which was laid on or after 1 October 1987; and

- (iv) on 1 October 2010, for existing vessels the keel of which was laid before 1 October 1987.
- The Regulations are divided into Parts and each Part deals with a specific safety-related area, as follows:
 

Part 1	General, including Survey & Certification
Part 2	Construction, Watertight Integrity and Equipment
Part 3	Stability and Associated Seaworthiness
Part 4	Machinery and Electrical Installations
Part 5	Fire Protection, Fire Detection, Fire Extinction and Fire Fighting
Part 6	Protection of the Crew
Part 7	Life-Saving Appliances and Arrangements
Part 8	Emergency Procedures, Musters and Drills
Part 9	Radiocommunications
Part 10	Shipborne Navigational Equipment and Arrangements
Part 11	Crew Accommodation
  - The Regulations include a survey regime, which will require an initial survey, biennial and renewal surveys during a four-year cycle. The survey regime will require the vessels to be inspected out of the water during the initial and renewal surveys. This requirement will enable the surveyors to carry out a detailed examination of the hull of the vessel.

### **Fishing Vessel (Fees) Regulations 2007**

The Minister will also shortly introduce new Fishing Vessel (Fees) Regulations. These Regulations introduce fees for the survey and certification of fishing vessels of 15 metres length overall and over and restates the Fishing Vessel (Fees) Regulations 2005 (S.I. No 504 of 2005) which applied to vessels of over 24 metres in length only.

#### **N.B.**

***Under the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2003, as amended by the Maritime Safety Act 2005***

1. it is a condition of a sea-fishing boat licence that the licensee shall ensure that the licensed boat complies with requirements specified by or under the Merchant Shipping Acts 1894 to 2005 (*section 4.8A(a)*), and
2. where by or under the Merchant Shipping Acts 1894 to 2005 a survey is required to be carried out of a sea-fishing boat for the purpose of establishing whether or not such boat complies with the requirements specified by or under those Acts, the licensing authority shall not grant or renew a sea-fishing boat licence in respect of the boat unless the licensing authority is satisfied that the boat complies with such requirements. (*section 4.8A(b)*).

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For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice please contact  
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