



Marine Notice No. 11 of 2006

Notice to All Boat Builders, Shipbuilders, Boat Repairers, Ship Repairers, Owners, Masters, Skippers and Persons In Charge

Fitting of flush deck hatches in Passenger Boats - Merchant Shipping (Passenger Boat) Regulations S.I. 273 of 2002

- 1.1 The Department of Transport's policy relating to the fitting of flush deck type hatches was recently subject of a Court Appeal. The Court ruled that the Department's policy of limiting the size and type of such hatches be upheld and that means of access to spaces below the watertight deck be restricted to small man hole type hatches when builders, owners or operators opt for fitting flush deck hatch access.
The types of hatches which may be accepted are such as those manufactured by "Hercules" or "Titan" and are operated by a "T" bar lever which quickly opens or closes the hatch.
- 1.2 Access for maintenance which includes the lifting out of an engine when the boat is **not** at sea may be fitted in the form of a removable large flush deck hatch which is normally bolted down and sealed water tight. A large hinged hatch may also be considered provided it is not the normal means of access to the space and has a notice displaying that the hatch must not be opened at sea.
- 1.3 Another option for access to spaces below the watertight deck is the fitting of a raised coaming type hatch which incorporates raised vertical watertight sides and a hinged hatch cover.
- 1.4 Access hatches must be approved by a Department of Transport Surveyor prior to fitting.

Director General
Maritime Safety Directorate
Department of Transport,
Leeson Lane,
Dublin 2.

22nd June 2006

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice please contact
The Marine Surveyors' Office, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2 +353 1 678 3400
For information in relation to technical specification/type approval of radio equipment contact the
Radio Surveyors +353 1 678 2363/2364/2365/2367.
For general enquiries please contact the Maritime Safety Division at +353-1-678 3418
Any enquiries concerning Marine Notices should be addressed to:
Maritime Safety Directorate, Department of Transport, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2
Email: marinenotices@transport.ie
Or visit us at: www.transport.ie