
FISHING VESSELS FREEBOARD AND STABILITY INFORMATION BOOKLET – RECOMMENDED FORMAT

Notice to all Shipbuilders, Ship Designers, Naval Architects, Consultants, Surveyors to Classification Societies and Recognised Organisations, Fishing Vessel Owners, Fishing Vessel Operators, and Fishing Vessel Skippers and Surveyors.

Summary

- This note recommends a format for the Freeboard & Stability Information Booklet for use on board Fishing Vessels
- Approved Freeboard and Stability Information must be made available onboard the vessel, by the vessel owner, for the use of the skipper
- Statutory Requirements detail the nature and content of the information to be provided, but not the format
- A recommended format gives consistency of presentation and therefore ease of reading for those using the booklet
- The format is strongly recommended for use in all new stability booklets for vessels built for first use in the United Kingdom
- Alternative formats may be accepted for vessels which are flagged into the UK fishing fleet

Introduction/Background

1. There are Statutory Requirements for the carriage of Stability Information on board UK fishing vessels of 12 Metres Registered length or over.
2. Details of the provisions applicable to particular vessels are provided on page 3.

Format of Stability Information

3. The statutory provisions do not require that the stability information is provided in a prescribed format; however the benefits of having a standard format for stability information have long been recognised.
4. The last version of the Freeboard & Stability Information Booklet was published by the Department of Trade, Marine Division, in 1982. It is now considered timely to revise this previous publication to reflect recent changes to legislation and also incorporate recommendations from the Marine Accident Investigation Branch following a number of recent stability related casualties.

5. The booklet is available in hard copy form by application to the Fishing Vessel Safety Branch, (contact details are on the last page of this MGN), and Adobe (PDF) or Microsoft Word by going online to the Fishing Vessel Safety page of the MCA Website www.mcga.gov.uk.
6. In the new format the booklet is divided into a number of parts to make its use easier.
7. Parts I and II enable the skipper to consider the stability of his vessel in the easiest and simplest manner.
8. Part III provides a list of loading conditions that need to be examined against the appropriate stability criteria.
9. Part IV provides "Reference Information" about the arrangement and geometry of the vessel, and the spaces, including tanks, which comprise the vessel.
10. Part V provides "Background Information" which is fundamental to the vessel but which is not required to be referenced in the simplest use of the booklet.

Application

11. It is the intention that all vessel Stability Information submitted for approval on new build vessels, and existing vessels when they have a new booklet prepared, should be laid down in this recommended format, commencing six months after publication of this MGN.

Using the Format

12. The recommended format is, of necessity, generalised for all vessels of 12 metres registered length and over, however guidance notes and the text of relevant regulations have been included for the guidance of consultants.
13. For vessels built for first use in the United Kingdom the format has been agreed by representatives of the Fishing Industry Safety Group (FISG).
14. The MCA may not accept other formats if it is considered that they do not contain a similar standard of information.
15. For vessels flagging in to the United Kingdom fleet the format is strongly recommended. In cases where vessels have stability information that differs significantly from that recommended, the attending Surveyor, in conjunction with the local stability review office, will decide on whether amendment or revision is necessary.

Statutory Requirements for the carriage of Stability Information on board UK Fishing Vessels

Length	Build/contract date	Regulation
12 m Registered Length to less than 24 m Registered Length	Any	2002 Merchant Shipping Notice 1770 (F) "The Code of Safe Working Practice for the Construction and Use of 15 Metre Length Overall to less than 24 metres Registered Length Fishing Vessels"
Registered length of 24m and Over	Before 1/1/99	Fishing Vessel (Safety Provisions) Rules 1975 (SI 1975 No:330)
Registered length of 24m and Over	On or after 1/1/99	Fishing Vessel (EC Directive on Harmonised Safety Regime) Regulations 1999 (SI 1999 No:2998) 1999 (as amended by SI 2003 No: 1112), which gives effect to EU Directive 97/70/EC which implements the Consolidated text of the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, including the 1993 Torremolinos Protocol, with interpretations.

Further Information

Further information on the contents of this Notice can be obtained from The Fishing Vessel Safety Branch (or the address at the end of this Notice).

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File Ref: MS 088/001/0554 & 0533

Published: 12/2004

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ISO 9001:2000
 FS 34835

Department for
Transport

*The MCA is an executive agency
of the Department for Transport*

