

## M-Notices April 2011

### **MSN 1827 (M) — Categorisation of Waters**

This notice sets out the categorisation of all bodies of water in the United Kingdom which are not regarded as 'sea'. It comes into force on 1 April 2011, and replaces and augments MSN 1776 (M).

The four categorisations are defined as follows:

- Category A: Narrow rivers and canals where the depth of water is generally less than 1.5m
- Category B: Wider rivers and canals where the depth of water is generally 1.5m or more and where the significant wave height could not be expected to exceed 1.2m at any time
- Category C: Tidal rivers and estuaries and large, deep lakes and lochs where the significant wave height could not be expected to exceed 1.2m at any time
- Category D: Tidal rivers and estuaries where the significant wave height could not be expected to exceed 2.0m at any time

The categorisations apply specifically to the operation of class IV, V and VI passengerships and determine which waters are not regarded as 'sea' for the purposes of regulations made, or treated as made, under section 85 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995.

These categorisations should not be confused with classifications for passenger ships as designated in the Merchant Shipping (Passenger Ships on Domestic Voyages) Regulations 2000, which implement the EC directive on safety rules and standards for domestic passenger ships, the notice stresses.

The Annex to MSN 1827 lists and categorises all the rivers, canals, lochs and lakes in the UK. The categorisations shown in the Annex apply at all times of the year, unless otherwise indicated.

### **MGN 427 (F) — Stability Guidance for Fishing Vessels of Under 15m Overall Length**

This note provides guidance on stability assessment to help fishing vessel skippers and crew, as well as designers, boatbuilders and operators. It strongly recommends owners and skippers to commission and purchase new vessels which have had a stability assessment and have stability information supplied.

Full stability requirements for fishing vessels of 12m-15m registered length will be reintroduced in the near future, although at the present time there is no intention to introduce compulsory stability criteria to vessels under 12m in length.

Vessels over 12m in length which have historically been roll tested may continue to use this test. Skippers and owners whose vessels are eligible for this test are reminded that beam trawlers have a 20% uplift with the full stability criteria and their own formula for a roll test.

The MGN states that a notice containing simple and effective methods for maintaining stability should be posted on the vessel in a prominent position, where crew members will see it. It also states that skippers and crew should attend the Seafish one-day Intermediate Stability Awareness course.

## **MIN 406 (M+F) — Reporting Operating Anomalies Identified within ECDIS**

This note describes the procedures for reporting of ECDIS anomalies in accordance with IMO regulations. It applies to type-approved, installed ECDIS, using officially-issued ENC's. An ECDIS anomaly is an unexpected or unintended behaviour which may affect the use of the equipment or navigational decisions by the user. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- a failure to display a navigational feature correctly
- a failure to alarm correctly
- a failure to manage a number of alarms correctly

The MCA, as the UK maritime administration, collects information through reports by ECDIS users on UK vessels.

This MIN explains how to make a report and encourages seafarers to cooperate by reporting any ECDIS anomalies they identify. The identity of anyone making a report will remain confidential, the MCA points out.

The purpose of the information gathering is to form the framework for a more thorough investigation into the operating anomalies, and actions to remedy them.

A recent workshop at the IHO identified a number of short and longer term actions which could be taken. Further information will be issued by M-Notice in due course.

The following information is requested:

- ECDIS: Manufacturer, model name/type, serial number (if available), software version
- ENC: Issuer (eg UKHO), cell name (eg GB40282A), edition number, and latest update number applied
- Date-time group (local)
- Description of anomaly, including location (in lat/long or otherwise), screen shots (if possible)
- Details of system settings at time of use including display mode and display scale, ideally shown as screen shots
- Rectifying action (if any)

The Annex to MIN 406 displays the latest UKHO NAVAREA1 warning, giving details of recently-identified ECDIS anomalies.

Anomaly reports from UK vessels should be made to the MCA along the lines set out in MIN 406. A dedicated email address has been created for this: **[ECDISreports@mca.gov.uk](mailto:ECDISreports@mca.gov.uk)**