

M-Notices November 2011

MGN 436 – Guidance on Mitigating against the Effects of Shocks and Impacts on Small Vessels

This note provides guidance on mitigating the effects of whole body vibration on small vessels – in particular severe shocks as a result of impacts.

The guidance for operators includes reducing the impact through training, pre-departure briefing and ensuring that the vessel is operated considering the demographic and medical history of those onboard.

Advice is also provided on the correct posture to take when you are likely to be exposed to shocks as a result of impacts.

The notice states that consideration should be given to the vessel moving not just vertically, but in a wide range of plane as people onboard will experience not only vertical and horizontal movement but also torsion and a combination of all three.

MGN 436 has been produced in response to a number of incidents in recent years in which people onboard small craft have suffered injuries ranging from spinal compression to broken bones and damaged joints.

MSN 1677 – Life-Saving Appliances for Ships Other Than Ships of Classes III to VI(A) Regulations 1999

This Merchant Shipping Notice advises all shipowners, certifying authorities, shipbuilders, shiprepairers, ship masters and surveyors of the new 1999 Life-Saving Appliances Regulations and their application.

The Notice refers to Part II of the regulations and details the minimum numbers of davits to be provided and the minimum cubic capacity of lifeboats in ships of Classes II and II(A).

MIN 415 – Changes to Requirements for Inland Waterway Non-Passenger Vessels in the UK

This note reports that the MCA Fitness For Purpose (FFP) scheme for inland waterway non-passenger vessels was withdrawn on 1 October 2011 and new proposed 'National Standards' for inland waterway non-passenger vessels will not now be introduced.

The standards were introduced when there was a perception that inland waterway freight transport would be promoted, and that there would be a significant expansion of the industry. However, after careful consideration the MCA believes that there is no evidence of significant safety problems within the UK inland waterway non-passenger industry; and the shift to inland waterways has not taken place, and will not now do so on any national scale.

MIN 416 – Inspection, Survey and Certification Guidance for United Kingdom Small Commercial Vessels Operating in Foreign Waters

This note provides guidance to prevent difficulties as international conventions do not cover all vessels, and other maritime administrations and port state authorities are under no obligation to accept UK certificates.

Owners and operators are advised that before accepting work overseas, they should seek advice from the relevant port state authority on their requirements for certification, both for the vessel and for the crew.