



Virgin Islands Shipping Registry

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Marine Circular No.1 / 2008

Code of Safety For Small Commercial Vessels Operating In The Caribbean (SCV Code)

Circular to Shipowners, Ship Operators, Ship's Agents, Masters, Ship's Officers, Crewmembers, Surveyors and Marine Officers

Date of Issue: 10 April 2008

Summary

This Marine Circular highlights the amendments made to the Caribbean SCV Code in December 2007. The revised Code and Amendments is available in our website. The website address is www.vishipping.gov.vg.

Key Points

The amendments made to the Caribbean SCV Code 2007 version are in the following areas. Please refer to the Code for details.

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| Amendment 1 | A paragraph added to "Preamble" advising availability of model courses for Boatmasters and Boat Engineers from the Office of the Regional Maritime Adviser. |
| Amendment 2 | The revision date |
| Amendment 3 | Amends subparagraph I/1.2 of the SCV Code: Small commercial vessels which carry 12 or less passengers exempted from the Code requirements, if other certificates are carried |
| Amendment 4 | Amends regulation VI/2 with regards to survival craft for passenger vessels operating in protected waters. |
| Amendment 5 | Amends Regulation VI/4.1 on distress signals |
| Amendment 6 | A new regulation (1) STCW Basic Safety Training for crew members and (2) STCW training requirements for passenger vessels |
| Amendment 7 | Amends table IX/4.2 on restriction of Boatmasters Licences for Open Boats |
| Amendment 8 | Amends regulation IX/12 relating renewing of existing licences and the knowledge of SCV Code. |

Introduction

The aim of this Code is to prescribe standards of construction, and emergency equipment for small commercial vessels operating in the Caribbean Region. The regulations are based on the United States Coast Guard Code of Federal Regulations 46 Sub-Chapter T (certification of small passenger vessels) which are regarded as equivalent to IMO Convention requirements for such vessels, Sub-Chapter C (Un-inspected vessels) and The United Kingdom Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Workboats and Pilot Boats.

Amendments to the SCV Code 2007

The following are amendments to the SCV Code agreed in 2007. Please note that text to be inserted is shown in *Italics*.

Amendment 1. Amend the Preamble by adding after the third paragraph the following:

Model Training Courses for Boatmasters and Boat Engineers are available from the Office of the Regional Maritime Adviser (Caribbean). These courses provide a blueprint for the training of Boatmasters and Boat Engineers and seek to ensure that persons who operate small commercial vessels are competent to carry out their duties efficiently, Contact information is as follows:

*Fax: 1-868-625-8666
Telephone: +1-868-624-6159*

*Office of the Regional Maritime Adviser
Second Floor, ANSA House
Corner Queen & Henry Streets
P O Box 493, Port of Spain
Trinidad. W.I*

Email imoadviser@mail.tt

Amendment 2. Amend the fifth paragraph to read as follows:

This publication contains revisions up to December 2007.

CHAPTER I – GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Application

Amendment 3. Amend subparagraph I/1.2 of the SCV Code by adding sub-paragraph .5 as follows:

The Code shall not apply to:

.5 small commercial vessels which carry 12 or less passengers and hold a valid certificate issued under the provisions of a Code specially designed for such vessels. However a Certificate of Compliance with the provisions of the SCV Code should be attached to the Certificate required by the Code to which such vessels were surveyed.

CHAPTER VI – LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT

2. Number and type of survival craft.

Amendment 4. Amend regulation VI/2 as follows:

2.2 Vessels making voyages in coastal waters shall carry lifeboats, liferafts, or buoyant apparatus, and passenger vessels operating solely in protected waters shall carry liferafts or buoyant apparatus, approved in accordance with regulation I/4, sufficient to accommodate the total number of persons on board.

4 Distress signals

Amendment 5. Amend Regulation VI/4.1 by adding after sub-paragraph .3 the following:

Provided that vessels operating solely in protected areas may carry six hand held red flare signals, two buoyant orange smoke signals and two rocket parachute flares.

CHAPTER IX - LICENCING OF BOATMASTERS AND ENGINEERS, MANNING AND HOURS OF WORK

New Regulation

Amendment 6. Insert new regulation IX/2 A as follows:-

2 A Crew

2 A 1. A commercial vessel required by the Administration to carry crew, in addition to a Master and Boat Engineer, shall carry as such crew, persons who hold the additional qualifications identified in section 1.2 of Annex 11 of the Code.

2A 2: A passenger vessel shall carry Masters, Boat Engineers and Crew, as required by the Administration, who have completed the training specified in section A-V/3, paragraphs, 1, 4 and 5 of the Seafarers, Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code, (STCW Code) as appropriate.

4 Grades and area restrictions of Boatmaster Licences

Amendment 7. Amend table IX/4.2 as follows:

TABLE IX/4.2

(1) Waters	(2) Size and type of vessel	(3) Minimum Grade of Licence
Protected	Open Boat (daylight only)	3
	<24m	2
Coastal	Open Boat (daylight only)	3
	<12m passenger	2
	<24m other than passenger	2
	12 - 24m passenger	1
Exposed	All vessels	1

Amendment 8. Amend regulation IX/12 to read as follows:

12.1 Subject to IX/12.2, the standards of competence to be attained and the conditions to be satisfied by the holder of an existing licence to operate commercial vessels in order for a licence to be issued to that person under this Chapter, shall be such standards and conditions as were to be satisfied by that person in order for the existing licence to be issued. Accordingly, the Administration shall on the application of the holder of an existing licence issue to that person a licence under this Chapter; and the licence shall -

.1 be of the grade which is appropriate in respect of -

.1 a vessel when being navigated/operated in waters in the area or areas stated in the existing licence as the area or areas of operation; and

.2 the size of vessel which in the period of 12 months before the coming into force of the Code was navigated/operated in that area under the command or charge of the holder of the existing licence; and

.2 state the area or areas in which a vessel may be navigated/operated under the command or charge of the holder, as the area or areas stated in the existing licence as the area or areas of operation.

12.2 A person to be issued a licence under IX/12.1 must hold the additional qualifications identified in Annex 11 paragraph 1.2 and have appropriate knowledge of the Code, to the satisfaction of the Administration.

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