



Republic of Mauritius
MINISTRY OF BLUE ECONOMY, MARINE RESOURCES, FISHERIES AND SHIPPING
4TH FLOOR, LIC BUILDING, JOHN KENNEDY STREET
PORT LOUIS

Circular Note 3 of 2021

Manning of small barges and of small commercial vessels registered under the Merchant Shipping Act and operating in port waters

As you are aware, the manning of a vessel is fundamental in order to ensure that the vessel is sufficiently, effectively and efficiently manned to provide safety and security of the vessel, safe navigation and operations at sea and in ports as well as for the prevention of human injury and loss of life at sea.

2. In this context, please find below the minimum safe manning scale for small barges/ small commercial vessels operating within port limits which may vary depending on the size of the vessel:

- a. One skipper; and
- b. One Ordinary Seafarer.

The skipper may hold one of the following qualifications

- a. Certificate of Competency as Skipper for Fishing Vessel of 24 metres and more;
- b. Certificate of Competency as Second Hand for Fishing Vessel of 24 metres and more;
- c. Skipper's Certificate or license issued by the Tourism Authority;
- d. ILO-FAO Certificate of Attendance for Skipper's Course for Fishing Vessels of 12m in length and above but less than 24m.

3. The holders of the qualifications at (a) and (b) will be eligible for the issue of a Document of Evidence for operating barges/small commercial vessels in port waters whereas those having the qualifications mentioned at (c) and (d) will be required to undergo an oral assessment for the issue of the aforesaid Document of Evidence.

With respect to the Ordinary Seafarer, the latter should possess a STCW Basic Safety Training Certificate and should have completed at least 6 months of sea-service on any type of vessel.

4. All personnel who will be serving on vessels (including barges) which carry oil or oily residues shall be in possession of a documentary evidence attesting that have attended an approved tanker familiarisation course.

5. Consequently, all owners/operators of barges/small commercial vessels registered under the Merchant Shipping Act and operating in port waters are requested to submit the following documents to this Ministry:

- a. Crew list;
- b. Copies of qualifications of the crew members;
- c. Valid medical certificate (as per the attached Merchant Shipping Notice on Medical Standard and list of approved medical practitioners) ; and
- d. Copies of contracts of employment of all crew members.

6. A grace period of a maximum **three months** as from **01 September 2021** is being granted to **existing** owners/operators of barges and small commercial vessels registered under the Merchant Shipping Act and operating in port waters to ensure compliance to the above requirements.

7. New owners shall comply with to the requirements of this Circular Note as from the date it comes into effect.

8. This circular note will take effect as from **01 September 2021**.

Director of Shipping

Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping

Level 3, Ken Lee Building

20, Edith Cavell Street,

Port Louis

Tel : 260 0024

Fax : 2137013

12 August 2021