

PRESS RELEASE

SCV Code - A Practical Guide

Compiled and Edited by: Peter Moth
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SCV Code - A Practical Guide offers a much-needed insight into the complexities of the proposed new regulations concerning Alternative Construction Standards for Small Vessels* in Commercial Use for Sport or Pleasure, Workboats and Pilot Boats.

In one volume, the Practical Guide sets out the new, long-awaited 'harmonised' code of practice – a single document that is due to replace the existing Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) codes of practices for UK small vessels, often referred to individually as the Blue, Yellow, Red and Brown Codes**.

SCV Code – A Practical Guide follows the popular and proven format of the Foreshore Publications *Practical Guide**** series and features a full keyword index, margin text indicators, checklists, tables and supporting annexes. The text replicates the current MCA Marine Guidance Notice, MGN 280 (M) with MCA revisions to the end of May 2005 plus 'value-added' features such as diagrams and chartlets. Additionally, purchasers of the book are offered a free updating service of the text to bring it in line with the appropriate Statutory Instrument, when published.

Background

Over the last four years, the MCA has been engaging with industry to review, revise, and harmonise the existing Codes of Practice for Small Vessels. The project was not intended as a simple merger of the Codes, but an opportunity to rationalise and update the requirements where appropriate, and to ensure that the new Code reflects changes within the industry.

Similarly, the revision was not intended to produce major changes to the philosophy or content of the Codes, or to place retrospective requirements on vessels currently operating commercially who may continue complying with their current Code standards.

Representatives from all areas of the marine industry, (including designers, builders, regulators and operators) have participated in the Working Group to ensure that the new SCV Code remains an industry-wide agreed standard. The SCV Code has now been approved and is available for use by all small vessels wishing to be certificated for commercial use as an alternative standard. Final full implementation of the new Statutory Instrument and Code as a Merchant Shipping Notice, will follow after it is signed by the Minister for Transport, and laid before Parliament, expected later in 2005, at which time the existing Codes will be fully replaced.

The SCV Code encompasses:

- Construction and Structural Strength
- Weathertight Integrity
- Water Freeing Arrangements
- Machinery (including main and auxiliary engines and portable equipment)
- Electrical Arrangement
- Steering Gear, Rudder and Propeller Systems
- Bilge Pumping

- Intact Stability (including for those vessels engaged in towing or lifting)
- Freeboard and Freeboard Marking
- Life-Saving Appliances
- Fire Safety and Fire Appliances
- Radio Equipment
- Navigation Lights, Shapes and Sound Signals
- Navigational Equipment
- Anchors and Cables
- Medical Stores
- Certification and Examination

and a number of issues relating to the Use of the Vessel, such as:

- commercial towing
- cargo carrying
- lifting by deck crane or device
- carriage of packaged dangerous goods, and
- pollution prevention (MARPOL)

In addition, the SCV Code now provides the code of practice for vessels engaged as a Pilot Boat, whether as a dedicated vessel or as a multi-role workboat or harbour craft.

Presented in a format that proved so effective with Foreshore Publications' earlier titles *Workboat Code of Practice - An Operator's Guide* and *ISPS Code – A Practical Guide* (and the later *2004 Update*), and *Port Waste Management – A Practical Guide*, the new title retains the easy-to-reference margin text locators that offer easy visual guidance to the more detailed official text displayed adjacently.

Of particular importance is the full Keyword Index that quickly identifies areas of interest contained within the publication.

This title, compiled and edited by Peter Moth, offers a handy and rugged source of reference to all those involved in operating commercial small vessels, particularly workboat owners and skippers, charter boat owners and skippers, charter yacht owners and skippers, surveyors, naval architects, boat builders, harbour masters, pilot boat authorities and regulatory authorities.

For further information, contact:

Peter Moth
 Foreshore Publications
 Tel: 023 92 460111
 Fax: 023 92 460123
 E-Mail: foreshore@mail.com

- * In this context, Small Vessels are defined as vessels up to 24m load line length
- ** Blue Code – The Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Commercial Sailing Vessels
 Yellow Code – The Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Commercial Motor Vessels
 Brown Code – The Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Workboats and Pilot Boats
 Red Code – The Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Vessels in Commercial Use for Sport or Pleasure operating from a Nominated Departure Point (NDP)

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Peter Moth is a qualified seafarer and experienced marine journalist, being the founder and long-time editor of *Maritime Journal* and Publisher of *Maritime Contracts Journal*. He is currently Co-Ordinator of the UK Harbour Masters' Association and media consultant to the International Harbour Masters' Association.