

GIBRALTAR DEPARTMENT OF SHIPPING
(Department of Trade, Employment and Communications)



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Local Administrative Instruction – 002
(re-issued Administrative Instruction 01/2003)

To: All local Agents and Operators

SURVEY AND CERTIFICATION OF LOCALLY OPERATED CRAFT

In accordance with the directives of the Minister for Tourism and Transport, the Gibraltar Registry of Ships has assumed the role, functions and responsibility of a Maritime Administration. In order to ensure maritime safety and protection of the environment the registry is now responsible for the survey and certification of Gibraltar registered ships, and in some cases other ships in Gibraltar waters. The administration is also responsible for exercising Port State Control to foreign ships calling at Gibraltar.

In respect of locally operated vessels operating commercially within Gibraltar waters, the following procedures shall apply.

The final granting of a licence to operate remains at the discretion of the Gibraltar Port Authority.

Vessels being granted a licence to operate within Gibraltar waters will be classes into three categories, these being, less than 12 meters in length, over 12 meters but less than 24metres in length, and those over 24 meters in length.

Less than 12 meters in length

It is an undeniable fact that the size of a vessel has a direct relationship with safety and survivability. The maritime administration would not like to encourage vessels of less than 12 meters to operate commercially. Therefore no craft being introduced into Gibraltar and requesting an operating licence for the first time from the Gibraltar Port authority will be considered for survey.

Existing craft already holding an operating licence issued by the Gibraltar Port Authority will be reviewed by the Maritime Administration and only surveyed if deemed suitable for the type of trade that it is engaged in, the area of operation and the number of people or total load carried. It will be subject to an annual inspection for the issuance of a safety survey certificate.

Over 12 meters but under 24 metres in length

All craft coming into operation for the first time and requesting an operating licence from the Gibraltar Port Authority must fully comply with the requirements of the UK MCA *Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Workboats and Pilot Boats*. Safety regulations for UK Class VI type vessels will apply in the case of passenger vessels. Craft will be subject to an annual inspection for the issuance of a safety survey certificate.

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Existing craft already holding an operating licence issued by the Gibraltar Port Authority will be monitored by this Department for suitability to continue operating and will comply with the *Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Workboats and Pilot Boats* as deemed practical by the Maritime Administrator. Any exemptions will be noted in the Document of Compliance that will be issued with each craft. Safety regulations for UK Class VI type vessels will apply in the case of passenger vessels. Craft will be subject to an annual inspection for the issuance of a safety survey certificate.

Over 24 meters in length (as defined in the Load Line and SOLAS Conventions)

All craft coming into operation for the first time and requesting an operating licence from the Gibraltar Port Authority will have to be registered with an EU state, be classed with one of the classification societies recognised by the Gibraltar Registry of Ships and fully comply with all the relevant conventions applicable to the vessels type and size. Craft will be subject to an annual inspection for the issuance of a safety survey certificate.

Existing craft already holding an operating licence issued by the Gibraltar Port Authority will be monitored by the Maritime Administration for suitability to continue operating. They must fully comply with the relevant conventions applicable to the vessels type and size. Craft will be subject to an annual inspection for the issuance of a safety survey certificate.

With regard to vessels carrying more than 12 passengers the *Gibraltar Merchant Shipping (Safety Rules and Standards for Passenger Ships on Domestic Voyages) Regulations 2003* will apply where applicable.

In order to obtain a safety survey certificate the owner or operator of a vessel will have to apply in writing (addressing either the Registry of Ships or the Maritime Administrator) with an initial deposit of £225.00 (current fees for 3 hours work) payable to the Government General Account, and indicate the time and place where the vessel may be inspected. The maritime administrator, or in his absence the Senior Marine Surveyor will detail a surveyor to undertake the job. It shall be the responsibility of the owner or operator to provide the necessary transport, including boats for inspection at anchor. The fees will be adjusted for the actual period of work once the survey has been completed.

All vessels are to be operated by a person or persons duly qualified to the Administrative Instruction relating to such training and qualifications.

The provisions of this administrative Instruction shall have immediate effect, and supersedes and replaces the instruction issued on 21 January 2002.

For further information, please contact the offices of the Registry of Ships.

T Nation
Senior Marine Surveyor

This copy of the Administrative Instruction has been sent electronically and does not carry a signature or official stamp. A sign and stamped copy will be available upon request.