CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS
for new fishing vessels less than 15 metres length overall

October 2019
IMPORTANT NOTE

These Construction Standards define minimum Seafish standards for the construction, inspection and certification of the hull, and outfit of small commercial fishing vessels. Particular attention is drawn to Part 1 of these Standards with regard to the definition and scope of Seafish certification of any new vessel.

In addition, Designers, Builders, Operators and Owners should ensure that they comply with the relevant Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Fishing Vessels under 15 Metres in Length and also such International Convention requirements as may be applicable.
Introduction

These Construction Standards can be used as guidance to anyone wishing to build a new vessel, but only Seafish can certify a new vessel to these Standards.

The Sea Fish Industry Authority (Seafish), established under the Fisheries Act 1981, has statutory duties defined by that Act as among other things: “promoting the efficiency of the seafood industry so as to serve the interests of that industry as a whole”, giving effect to directions from Ministers, or acting as their agents if so required.

Seafish is directed in its activities by a Board, appointed by Ministers under the provisions of that Act, with five of its nine members drawn from various industry sectors, and the remaining four, including the Chair, independent of any financial or commercial interest in the industry. In developing the programme of Seafish activities, they are assisted by three industry panels, chaired by an Industry Representative who attends board meetings and advises the Board on industry requirements in the Domestic and Export, Import and Processing and Supply Chain Sectors.

These Standards have been developed by the Marine Survey Department of the Sea Fish Industry Authority (Seafish) through close consultation between the MCA, (Maritime and Coastguard Agency, an Executive Agency of the Department of Transport), Specialist Marine Equipment Manufacturers, Fishing Vessel Builders, and Fishing Industry Representatives, under the direction of a Standards Review Committee on which the following organisations were represented:-

Shipbuilders and Shiprepairers Association
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
National Federation of Fishermen’s Organisations
Northern Ireland Fishermen’s Federation
Scottish Fishermen’s Federation

These Standards will be reviewed at intervals not exceeding five years to take into account experience gained in their application, and any new statutory requirements will be applied to new vessels as applicable to these Standards.

Where new standards are developed and finalised by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), European Union (EU), the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), International Standards Organisation (ISO) or Sea Fish Industry Authority which impact upon the requirements of these Standards, amendment may be considered immediately and implemented by means of a Seafish information note (SFIN).
How you can contact us

Addresses, telephone numbers (including those with twenty-four hour answering machines) and faxes for all our Marine Survey offices are given below.

**Edinburgh**  Administration  
   Sea Fish Industry Authority  
   Marine Services  
   18 Logie Mill  
   Logie Green Road  
   Edinburgh  
   EH7 4HS  

   Telephone: 0131 524 8678  
   Fax: 0131 558 1442  

**Grimsby**  Main Office  
   Sea Fish Industry Authority  
   Marine Services  
   Origin Way  
   Europarc  
   Grimsby  
   N.E. Lincs  
   DN37 9TZ  

   Telephone: 01472 252300  
   E-mail: marineservices@seafish.co.uk  

Our offices are staffed during normal office hours.

Application for Survey

Application forms can be obtained from any of the Marine Survey offices listed and online. Completed application forms should be returned to the Administrator at the Edinburgh office.
Complaints

If you have a complaint then please contact either the Grimsby or Edinburgh offices for the current complaints procedure.
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