



# Gibraltar Maritime Administration

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## Shipping Guidance Notice 054(a) Coding of Small Gibraltar Registered Commercial Yachts (Supersedes SGN 054)

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To: Ship Owners, Operators, Master's, Classification Societies and Recognised Organisations

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### References:

- MGN 280(M) as amended – Code of Practice for Small Vessel in Commercial Use for Sport or Pleasure, Workboats and Pilot Boats (as amended).
- UK Merchant Shipping Notice (MSN) 1892 (M)
- MCA The Workboat Code (as amended)
- Shipping Information Notice (SIN) 063 – Workboat Code Edition 2 (as amended)

### 1. Summary

This Shipping Guidance Notice (SGN) revises the Gibraltar Maritime Administration's survey and certification requirements for small Gibraltar Registered commercially operating yachts.

### 2. Definitions:

- i. "Small yachts, small pleasure craft and workboats" refers to vessels of under 24 metres length, in commercial use for purposes other than sport or pleasure, including a dedicated pilot boat.
- ii. "New vessel" means a vessel to which the workboat Code applies, the keel of which was laid, or the construction or lay-up was started, on or after the first day on which the Workboat Code Edition 2 (as amended) came into force, or any vessel where there has not been a valid certificate for the previous five years.
- iii. "Existing vessel" means a vessel the keel of which was laid, or the construction or lay-up was started, prior to the first day on which the workboat Code (as amended) came into force, and for which certification has remained valid for the preceding five years of this Code coming into force.
- iv. "SCV Code" means Code of Practice for Small Vessel in Commercial Use for Sport or Pleasure, Workboats and Pilot Boats (as amended).
- v. "The workboat Code" means the Workboat Code (as amended) adopted by MSN 1892 (M), which came into effect on 31 December 2018.
- vi. "Coding" means compliance under the SCV or Workboat Code.

### 3. Standards for small Gibraltar registered yachts engaged in commercial activity

All Gibraltar registered vessels, including sail or power driven yachts, engaged in commercial activities on any basis, are required to be able to demonstrate via applicable certification, compliance with applicable international maritime conventions, or a Gibraltar Maritime Administration accepted alternative standard, appropriate to the size of vessel, area of operation, and activities of the vessel.

The Gibraltar Maritime Administration (GMA) recognizes the following as acceptable standards for Gibraltar registered small yachts engaged in commercial activities, carrying not more than 12 passengers :

- I. Existing vessels - SCV Code (as amended)\*
- II. New vessels - The Workboat Code (as amended)

**Note:** Above standards are subject to any additional requirements deemed necessary or appropriate by the Maritime Administrator.

### 4. Survey & Certification

Owners / operators of vessels seeking to obtain coding, should in the first instance contact the GMA.

Survey and certification requirements in respect of coding are primarily the Administration's responsibility, where GMA surveyors will undertake the survey and certification requirements.

However, if considered appropriate, the GMA may authorize on a 'case by case' basis, one of its Recognised Organisations (RO) or Certifying Authorities (CA) to undertake coding survey and certification requirements on its behalf.

For such cases, owners/operators are normally given a choice of RO or CA by the GMA, following which, appropriate coding instructions are issued directly by the GMA to the relevant RO or CA.

GMA authorized RO's:

- American Bureau of Shipping (ABS)
- Bureau Veritas (BV)
- Det Norske Veritas (DNV)
- Lloyd's Register (LR)
- Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (ClassNK)
- Registro Italiano Navale (RINA)

GMA authorized CA's:

- The International Institute of Marine Surveying (IIMS)
- MECAL Ltd
- Society of Consulting Marine Engineers and Ship Surveyors (SCMS)
- The Yacht Designers & Surveyors Association (YDSA)

It is important for owners/operators to note, that in respect of the Codes, annual examination by owners/operators of vessels engaged in commercial activities is not acceptable to the GMA. The annual verification inspections must be conducted by an authorised RO, CA or GMA surveyor.

For vessels where Coding responsibilities have been delegated to an RO or CA, the GMA may as part of its quality measures require periodical shipboard attendances, where a Flag State Inspection (general inspection) will be undertaken by a GMA surveyor. Flag State inspections of the vessel may only be undertaken by a GMA surveyor.

Similarly, GMA attendances may be undertaken following accidents or serious safety related circumstances.

#### **5. Gibraltar registered pleasure yachts**

Owners of pleasure vessels not engaged in commercial activity may apply for voluntary Coding. On successful completion of surveys, a Statement of Fact confirming compliance with the SCV/Workboat Code will be issued, which shall clearly state that the vessel has complied with the applicable Code, but is not in commercial use.

Annual examination by owners/operators of small pleasure vessels not engaged in commercial activity may be accepted.

Steve Gomez – Chief Surveyor (Ag)  
*For & on behalf of the Maritime Administrator*

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All notices are available via <https://www.gibraltarship.com/>

*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 enquiry*