

Question on enhancing facilities of ferry vessels
(Paper IDC 57/2013)

Written Reply for New World First Ferry Services Limited

Thank you for forwarding the captioned paper (Paper IDC 57/2013) prepared by District Councilor Mr Kwong Koon-wan to New World First Ferry Services Limited ('First Ferry') and attention to myself via facsimile (Reference No: IDC 2/8/01) dated 6 June 2013. Please find our replies as follows:

According to the "Examination Rules for Local Certificates of Competency" made under section 16 of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Cap. 548) that issued by Marine Department, "holding of Elementary First Aid and Proficiency in Medical First Aid (Combined), or equivalent certificate" is one of the requirements for issuance of a "Coxswain Grade 1 Certificate" or a "Engine Operator Grade 1 Certificate". Thus, for First Ferry, all coxswains and engineers had obtained the certificates of "Elementary First Aid and Proficiency in Medical First Aid (Combined) or equivalent certificates".

Besides, our company has provided the training of "First Aid Certificate Course" on voluntary basis to all our staff (including frontline staff and back-end staff) which is organized by Hong Kong St. John Ambulance ("St. John"). Any staff who completed a 30-hour training and passed the examination will be awarded the First Aid Certificate recognized by the Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, which is valid for three years. For re-certification, staff member could take an one-day refresher course and pass the examination before the expiry of the certificate. Currently, 12 staff members of First Ferry are holding this valid First Aid certificate. (For course details, please refer to St. John's website http://www.stjohn.org.hk/en/fa_c_AFA.shtml).

We are sorry for unable to dispatch a representative to attend the meeting to be held on 24 June, however, further opinions and comments on this issue are welcome, and, will be reviewed carefully and thoroughly.

Once again, thank you for your council's opinions.

Islands District Council Secretariat
June 2013