



**SMALL COMMERCIAL VESSEL CODE  
BAILIWICK OF GUERNSEY  
(SCV (BoG) CODE)**

**CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

**DECEMBER 2016**



**States of Guernsey**  
Trading Asset

## Introduction

---

The Harbour Master has prepared a draft Small Commercial Vessel Code for the Bailiwick of Guernsey (SCV (BoG) Code).

The purpose of the Code is to consolidate the requirements for the operation of small commercial vessels and their crews, whilst operating in and around the Bailiwick of Guernsey. It incorporates the latest construction standards adopted by the UK whilst recognising the unique situation small commercial vessels and their crews encounter by extending operating limits and parameters to incorporate all potential operations within the Bailiwick.

Existing legislation and procedures are outdated and cumbersome and therefore the new Code shall address these issues by providing a 'one-stop' reference to commercial operators.

The Code will harmonise the requirements for commercial vessels and provide a more efficient and effective licensing regime for the crews of these vessels.

The Code will prescribe standards of construction, manning and emergency equipment for small commercial vessels operating from a harbour within the Bailiwick of Guernsey. The Code will be given legal effect by regulation, which creates criminal offences in respect of breaches of, and non-compliance with, the Code.

The standards in this Code have been developed by the States of Guernsey Harbour Master, and are directly linked to United Kingdom (UK) requirements. Where this Code does not provide specific requirements to be complied with, it highlights where those requirements may be found.

The requirements for manning and crewing will be phased in over a period of 2 years from implementation for existing license holders. This will reduce the initial burden of ensuring compliance and provide suitable opportunity to undertake the relevant training, whilst still being able to operate.

## Benefits of the new code

---

- Ensure the highest of standards are met by domestic small commercial vessels
- One code of practice applicable to all commercial vessels (excluding fishing vessels)
- Structured crew licencing
- 5 yearly licencing renewals rather than annually
- Introduction of a Local Knowledge Endorsement requirement for Boatmaster licence holders.

- Introduction of the requirement to hold professional maritime qualifications to support domestic crewing licensing
- Extended operating limits for all vessels to meet the needs of the outlying Bailiwick communities
- Alignment to existing UK standards of construction and operations

## Consultation

---

The purpose of this consultation is to gather the views from the professional mariners and operators of small commercial vessels operating within the Bailiwick of Guernsey.

(Although the implementation of the Code is unlikely to have an impact on leisure boats, the consultation has been extended to this user group as a courtesy.)

The full Code is available at: <http://www.harbours.gg/article/152097/Commercial>

**All submissions should be made in writing to the address below and received no later than noon on Friday 27 January 2017.**

Information received from this consultation will assist Guernsey Harbours in:

- Ensuring that the Code is appropriate to the operations of small commercial vessels within the Bailiwick of Guernsey.
- Ensuring the manning and associated licensing requirements are appropriate for domestic operations.
- Ensuring that the scope and coverage of the new code is appropriate and meets local needs.

Please send your comments to:

By post            Guernsey Harbours  
                      PO Box 631  
                      St Julian's Emplacement  
                      St Peter Port, Guernsey  
                      GY1 3DL

Or by email: [guernsey.harbour@gov.gg](mailto:guernsey.harbour@gov.gg)

## Next Steps

---

Following this consultation, the feedback will be considered and, where appropriate, incorporated into the Code. New legislation will then be drafted to give legal powers to the Code.

The timescale for implementation is critical as existing licenses have been extended whilst the consultation is completed. It is therefore intended that the new code and legislation be implemented during Q2 2017.

## Circulation

---

This paper has been sent to the following individuals/organisations:

The States' Trading Supervisory Board  
Chief Secretary *to the* Committee *for* Environment and Infrastructure  
Chief Strategy and Policy Officer *to the* Policy & Resources Committee  
The Chief Executive of the States of Alderney  
The Senior Administrator of the Chief Pleas, Island of Sark  
External Monitoring & Assurance, Maritime and Coastguard Agency  
Principal Officer *to the* Transport Licensing Authority  
The Law Officers of the Crown  
General Pilots  
The Herm Island Company  
Jethou Island  
The Senior Sea Fisheries Officer  
The Guernsey Fisherman's Association  
Isle of Sark Shipping Company  
Trident Charter Company  
Brecqhou Development  
Small Commercial Vessel (SCV2) Operators  
All existing Small Commercial Vessel crewing license holders  
Royal Channel Island Yacht Club  
Guernsey Yacht Club  
Guernsey Boatowners Association

