

**Provisions relating to installation and operation of very high frequency radiotelephones on local vessels come into effect**

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Provisions relating to the requirements on the installation and operation of a very high frequency radiotelephone (VHF radio) in the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Safety and Survey) (Amendment) Regulation 2016 and the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (General) (Amendment) Regulation 2016 will come into effect tomorrow (February 1). The amendment regulations strengthen the existing requirements on navigational and communications equipment and enhance the marine safety of local vessels.

A spokesman for the Marine Department (MD) said, "The amendment regulations, which require that local vessels concerned must be fitted with a VHF radio and that a certificated operator must be present on board to operate the VHF radio at all times, were approved by the Legislative Council in February 2017. The amendment regulations will be ready for commencement tomorrow after we have confirmed with the trade that there are sufficient certificated operators of VHF radios."

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