

Email received 28 April 2005 from the Royal Yachting Association:

Consultation questions

Question 1: Do you agree with the proposal to introduce a lighter, electronic licensing process? If not, please explain why.

YES.

Question 2: Do you agree with the proposal to issue licences which remain valid for the life of the vessel? If not, please explain why.

YES in principle. However, provision needs to be made in circumstances where changes might be made to the call sign for example flag change, accounting authority or service provider.

Question 3: Do you agree with the proposal to issue electronic ship radio licences free of charge? If not please explain why?

YES.

Question 4: Do you agree with the proposal to apply an administrative charge when processing postal applications for ship radio licences? If not, please explain why.

YES in principle to cover costs, but no estimate is given as to what the charge might be. With the use of sailing clubs and internet cafes even those who do not have their own computers should be able to process an electronic version.

Question 5: Do you agree that the transfer of licensing to the MCA would not offer any significant advantage over the existing licensing system?

YES.

Question 6: Do you agree that WT Act licence exemption for vessels that remain within UK territorial waters is not currently practical?

YES. More and more leisure boat users are making passages to areas outside UK territorial waters. A licence document is required for inspection within the territorial waters of some foreign administrations.

Question 7: Do you agree that WT Act licence exemption remains a worthwhile long term objective? If not, please explain why.

NO. At present this would not appear to be a workable exemption, unless some means of limiting the range of domestic trading vessels to UK is developed.

Question 8: Do you believe that WT Act licence exemption would have an impact on maritime safety? If so, please explain why

Not entirely. The RYA supports the proposition at question 6 that exemption is not practical because of requirements in foreign territorial waters.

However, it is acknowledged that Ofcom can currently provide information to the Coastguard for Search and Rescue purposes.

Question 9: Would you prefer to see the current licensing system maintained without change? If so, please explain why

NO. There is overwhelming support for questions 1, 2 and 3.