



**Department of Communications, Marine and  
Natural Resources**

Marine Notice No. 15 of 2003

*NOTICE TO ALL SHIPOWNERS, FISHING VESSEL OWNERS, AGENTS,  
SHIPMASTERS, SKIPPERS, FISHERMEN, YACHTSMEN, SEAFARERS AND  
CHANDLERS*

**Guidance on the Modification of Vessels**

**GENERAL**

The Maritime Safety Directorate of the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources wishes to remind owners of vessels of the dangers associated with modifying vessels without proper evaluation of the consequences. Owners of vessels who intend to modify their vessels are advised that they could inadvertently make a vessel unseaworthy by modifying it without evaluating the consequences. Modifications such as changing the layout of an exhaust system, raising a deck or adding additional structures could render a vessel unstable or make the vessel vulnerable to flooding through openings. In addition, the structural strength of the vessel may need to be evaluated to ensure that the structure remains suitable for its intended purpose. Owners are advised that they should seek appropriate competent advice covering areas dealing with stability, construction standards and engineering systems. In addition, where a condition survey has been previously submitted to sea fisheries and then alterations are subsequently made, sea fisheries should be informed.

Director General  
Maritime Safety Directorate  
Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources  
Leeson Lane  
Dublin 2

30<sup>th</sup> May 2003

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice please contact the Marine Surveyors' Office, 26-27 Eden Quay, Dublin 1 at +353-1-8744900.  
For information in relation to technical specification/type approval of radio equipment contact the Radio Surveyors +353 1 678 2363/2364/2365/2367.  
For general enquiries please contact the Maritime Safety Division at +353-1-678 2360  
Any enquiries concerning Marine Notices should be addressed to:  
Maritime Safety Directorate, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2  
Email: [marine.notices@dcmnr.gov.ie](mailto:marine.notices@dcmnr.gov.ie)  
Or visit us at [www.dcmnr.ie](http://www.dcmnr.ie)