

Marine Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Ordinance to take effect on January 1 next year

The Government today (October 18) gazetted the Marine Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Ordinance (Commencement) Notice to appoint January 1, 2025, as the day on which the Marine Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Ordinance shall come into effect.

The Marine Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) (Approved Instrument Types and Specified Tests) Notice and the Marine Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) (Notice to Appear before Magistrate) Notice were also made to designate the types of instruments for the testing of drink and drug boating, specify the preliminary tests to be carried out to assess whether a person's ability to properly operate a vessel or perform a designated duty on board a vessel is impaired by the consumption or use of drugs; and prescribe the form for a notice requiring a suspect to appear before a magistrate in respect of offences under the Ordinance.

The abovementioned notices will be tabled at the Legislative Council on October 23 for negative vetting.

The Ordinance was enacted by the Legislative Council earlier on to regulate drink and drug boating in Hong Kong waters, so as to enhance marine safety and protect the safety of persons on board a vessel.