

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO
THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (Ro-Ro PASSENGER SHIPS) (STABILITY)
REGULATIONS 2004

2004 No.2884

1. Introduction

1.1 This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Transport and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

2. Description

2.1 The Regulations implement Directive 2003/25/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 April 2003 on specific stability requirements for ro-ro passenger ships.

2.2 Directive 2003/25/EC extends the enhanced ro-ro passenger ship stability requirements of the International Agreement of 27 and 28 February 1996 known as the "Stockholm Agreement" throughout Europe to ensure a common minimum level of safety for ro-ro passenger ships within the Community. The Directive also applies this stability standard to all United Kingdom registered ro-ro passenger ships operating regular scheduled international or domestic services in European waters where there is a significant wave height equal to or in excess of 1.5 metres.

2.3 The Merchant Shipping (Ro-Ro Passenger Ship Survivability) Regulations 1997 which previously implemented the Stockholm Agreement are revoked by these regulations which consolidate those measures.

3. Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

3.1 There are none.

4. Legislative background

4.1 The Regulations implement Directive 2003/25/EC.

5. Extent

5.1 This instrument applies to all of the United Kingdom.

6. European Convention on Human Rights

Not applicable

7. Policy Background

7.1 Directive 98/18/EC and subsequent amendments aim to establish uniform standards across the European Union for the construction and equipment of passenger ships engaged on domestic voyages within Member States.

7.2 No special political or legal considerations apply.

7.3 An external consultation was carried out. Details of who was consulted are recorded in the Regulatory Impact Assessment. The measures proposed have not proved controversial as the United Kingdom is a signatory to the “Stockholm Agreement” and has already applied the stability standards.

8. Impact

7.1 A Regulatory Impact Assessment is attached to this memorandum.

7.2 There is no additional impact on resources in the public sector.

9. Contact

The person who can answer any queries relating to this instrument is

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