4. Alterations to vessels

When alterations to a vessel can affect its stability, the competent authority should approve the alterations before they are undertaken.

Such alterations may include the following:
- conversion to new fishing methods;
- changes in the main dimensions, such as lengthening of the hull;
- changes in the size of the superstructures;
- changes in the location of bulkheads;
- change in the closing appliances of openings through which water can enter into the hull or deckhouses, forecastle, etc.;
- removal or shifting, either partially or fully, of the permanent ballast; and
- change of the main engine.

Consider how changes can affect the stability of the vessel.