



Local Notice to Mariners

02/2024

ABERDEEN HARBOUR PILOTAGE DIRECTIONS 2024

1. PILOTAGE DIRECTIONS

Aberdeen Harbour Board as the competent harbour authority for the port and harbour of Aberdeen pursuant to the Pilotage Act 1987 and in exercise of their powers under Section 7 of that Act hereby issue the following Pilotage Directions for the Harbour.

When berthed or docked at Aberdeen Harbour, all vessels must fully comply with the instructions of the Harbour Master or any personnel nominated on their behalf where practicable and safe. Any failure to comply with such an instruction may lead to enforcement action being taken against by way of breach of the Aberdeen Harbour Board Bye-Laws, copies of which are available for review at the Aberdeen Harbour Board website and are deemed to be accepted and binding on vessel Masters upon entering Aberdeen Harbour and or its limits as defined

2. DEFINITIONS

Unless the context otherwise require in these Directions and the Appendices hereto:

- (a) “the Act” means the Pilotage Act 1987 and any statutory amendment or re-enactment thereof;
- (b) “Board” means Aberdeen Harbour Board incorporated under the Aberdeen Harbour Order Confirmation Act 1960 amended by the Harbour revision order 2016 and having its principal office at 16 Regent Quay, Aberdeen AB11 5SS;

- (c) "Examiners" means examiners appointed by the Board to consider applications for PECs;
- (d) "Harbour" means the port and harbour of Aberdeen as defined in Appendix 1 hereto;
- (e) "Harbour Master" means the Harbour Master appointed by the Board from time to time and any of his deputies and assistants;
- (f) "length" means the overall length of a vessel measured from the foremost part of the stem to the aftermost part of the stern, including any fixed projections extending beyond the stem and the stern;
- (g) "PEC" means a pilotage exemption certificate issued by the Board; and
- (h) "Pilot" means a pilot authorised by the Board.

In these Directions, the singular shall include the plural and vice versa and words importing gender shall include any other gender unless the context otherwise requires.

3.0 COMPULSORY PILOTAGE

3.1 Subject to the following provisions of clause 3, pilotage shall be compulsory for all vessels navigating in the North and South Harbour with the exception of:-

- (a) Vessels under 60 metres in length;
- (b) Vessels between 60 metres and 75 metres in length which are fitted with at least one fully operational bow thruster unit; and
- (c) Vessels moving from berth to berth within the Harbours with the permission of the Harbour Master.

3.2 Notwithstanding the terms of clause 3.1, pilotage shall be compulsory for all vessels manoeuvring with the assistance of a tug or tugs.

3.3 Notwithstanding the terms of clause 3.1, pilotage shall be compulsory for vessels specified by the Harbour Master when owing to special circumstances, this is deemed necessary by the Harbour Master in the interests of safety and/or protection of the environment and/or infrastructure or for any other reason.

3. PILOTAGE EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE (PECs)

A PEC may be applied for in accordance with the provisions of Section 8 of the Act and Appendix 2 to these Directions.

4. INFORMATION

Without prejudice to Section 18 of the Act, the master of any vessel subject to compulsory pilotage shall provide the Harbour Master and the Pilot with details of the vessel's dimensions and all other information relating to the vessel and its cargo which could affect the passage of the vessel through the Harbour. In particular, the Master shall provide details of any defects in the vessel or other factors which could affect the navigation of the vessel.

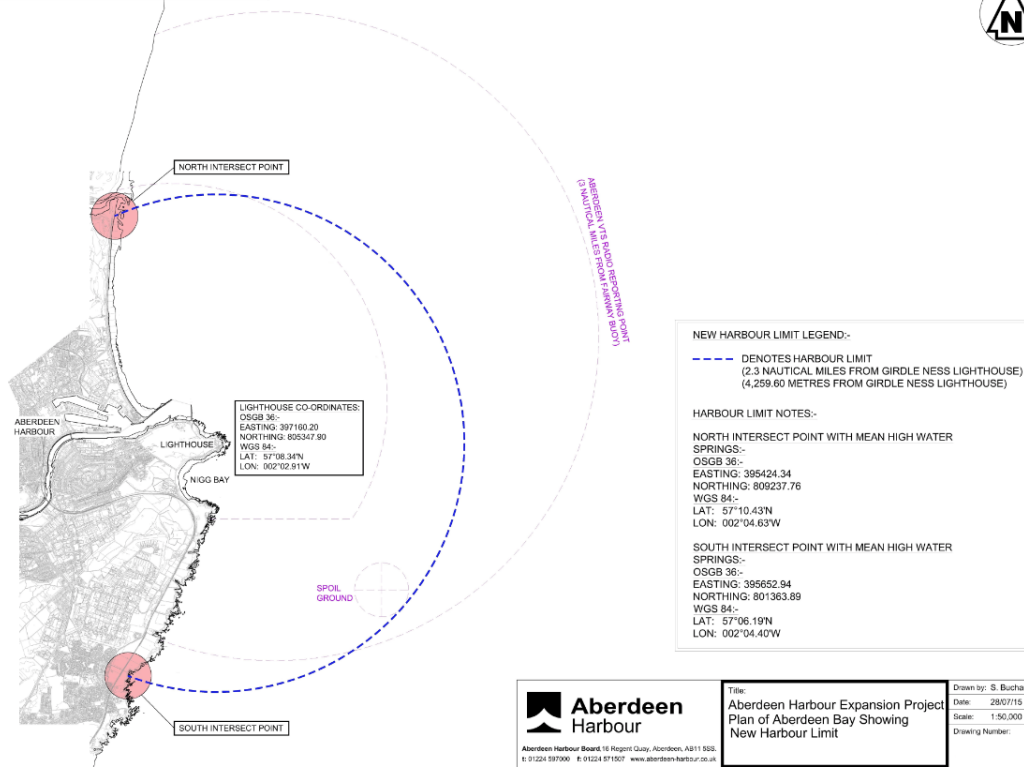
5. COMMENCEMENT DATE

These Pilotage Directions shall come into effect on 1st January 2024 and from that date shall supersede all previous Pilotage Directions issued by the Board.

ABERDEEN HARBOUR PILOTAGE DIRECTIONS 2024 APPENDIX 1

The Harbour comprises the port and harbour of Aberdeen as defined in Section 52 of the Aberdeen Harbour Order Confirmation Act 1960 as amended by The Aberdeen Harbour Revision Order 2016, comprising the harbour and all that that area below the level of high water within a radius of 2.3 nautical miles from Girdleness Lighthouse at Aberdeen (which is located at latitude 57°08.34N and longitude 002°02.91W)

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PILOTAGE DIRECTIONS 2024

APPENDIX 2

REGULATIONS FOR THE ISSUE OF PILOTAGE EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES (PECs)

1. Pursuant to Section 8 of the Act, the Board as the competent harbour authority for the Harbour may issue a PEC to a deck officer of a vessel where it is satisfied that their skill, experience and local knowledge are sufficient for them to be capable of piloting the vessel of which they are a deck officer (or that and any other vessels specified in the PEC) subject to these regulations.
2. The applicant for a PEC shall hold a valid Certificate of Competency appropriate for the vessel of which they are an officer and if requested, shall produce the Certificate to the Harbour Master for inspection.
3. The applicant shall hold a valid seafarers' medical certificate and if requested, shall produce the certificate to the Harbour Master for inspection.
4. The applicant shall require to satisfy the Board as to their local knowledge and that during the previous 12 month period, they has completed a minimum of 24 voyages to and from the Harbour (12 arrivals and 12 departures) with effective responsibility for the conduct of the vessel when entering or departing from the Harbour under the direct supervision (and ultimate control) of a Pilot or a PEC holder.
5. For the purposes of paragraph 4, in the case of offshore support vessels between 75 and 84.99 metres in length, 12 voyages shall be required, 6 arrivals and 6 departures.
6. For the purposes of paragraph 4, in the case of offshore support vessels between 85m and 100m 18 voyages shall be required, 9 arrivals and 9 departures
7. For the purposes of paragraphs 4, 5 and 6, at least half of the arrivals and departures shall be conducted with a Pilot aboard, including the first arrival or departure and the last arrival or departure prior to the examination referred to in paragraph 7 below.

8. An applicant for a PEC shall undergo an examination by two Examiners and shall satisfy the Examiners that he has sufficient knowledge and skill regarding
 - (i) the Harbour, its tides and currents, rocks, shoals and dangers,
 - (ii) the land marks, beacons, buoys and lights within the Harbour,
 - (iii) the handling of vessels both with and without manoeuvring aides such as thrusters under all circumstances and
 - (iv) all other matters deemed necessary by the Examiners.

The ability of the applicant to deal with an emergency shall be assessed by a Pilot during voyages when a Pilot is present and during examination by the examiners

9. An applicant for a PEC shall satisfy the Board that in the interests of safety, their knowledge of and ability to communicate effectively in English is sufficient for the purposes of controlling the vessel of which they are a deck officer.
10. In the case of a tug or dredger operating in the Harbour under the orders of the Harbour Master, the requirements of paragraphs 4 and 5 may be relaxed at the discretion of the Examiners.
11. A PEC will have effect for the period of 12 months from the date on which it is granted. It may be renewed at the discretion of the Board provided that during the 12 month period prior to the date of renewal, the PEC holder has completed a minimum of 6 arrivals and 6 departures pursuant to their PEC. PEC holders must take a Pilot for 1 arrival and 1 departure to revalidate their certificate. These accompanied trips are to be included in 6 arrivals and 6 departures required to revalidate.
12. Additional training may be offered to PEC holders to endorse their certificate with a restricted visibility endorsement.
13. The Board may suspend or revoke a PEC in accordance with Section 8A of the amended Act.
14. Pilot Exemption Certificates shall be revalidated annually, generally on the 31st December of each year unless otherwise stated on an individual certificate.

15. If a holder wishes to revalidate they must provide trip logs either by email to pec@portofaberdeen.co.uk. PECs are not automatically revalidated.

Further information is available within the Information note provided regarding Pilot Exemption Certificates.

PEC packs are available from PEC@portofaberdeen.co.uk

PEC packs will be updated each year and are available on request from Aberdeen Harbour Board.

<https://www.portofaberdeen.co.uk/port-information/marine#downloads>

Owners, Agents, Berth Operators etc should ensure that the contents of this Navigation Notice are made known to the Masters of their vessels.
