



**Aberdeen Harbour Board
Pilotage Directions
December 2024
PoA-MSMS-04-Pilotage-DIR-001**



ABERDEEN HARBOUR BOARD 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 (as amended by the Marine Navigation Act 2013) and in exercise of their powers under Section 7 of said 1987 Act hereby issue the following Pilotage Directions for the Harbour.

When berthed or docked at Port of Aberdeen, all vessels must fully comply with the instructions of the Harbour Master and / or any persons nominated on their behalf where practicable and safe. Failure to comply with any such instruction may lead to enforcement action being taken against such non-compliant vessels by way of breach of the Aberdeen Harbour Board Bye-Laws, copies of which are available for review on the Port of Aberdeen website (for the avoidance of doubt, Port of Aberdeen is the operating name of Aberdeen Harbour Board). Aberdeen Harbour General Bye-Laws are deemed to be accepted and binding on vessel Masters upon entering Port of Aberdeen 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 Aberdeen Harbour Revision Order 2016 and having its principal office at 16 Regent Quay, Aberdeen AB11 5SS;

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- (c) “Examiner(s)” means examiner(s) 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 their 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 Pilotage 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. 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 60.00 metres in length;
- (b) Vessels 60.00 metres in length to 74.99 metres which are fitted with at least one fully operational bow thruster unit; and
- (c) Vessels moving from berth to berth within the North harbour or berth to berth within the South Harbour 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.

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PILOTAGE EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE (PECs)

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

4. INFORMATION

Without prejudice to Section 18 of the Pilotage Act, the Master of any vessel subject to compulsory pilotage shall provide the Harbour Master and Authorised 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, details of any deficiencies, defects or other factors which could affect the navigational safety of the vessel shall be provided.

5. COMMENCEMENT DATE

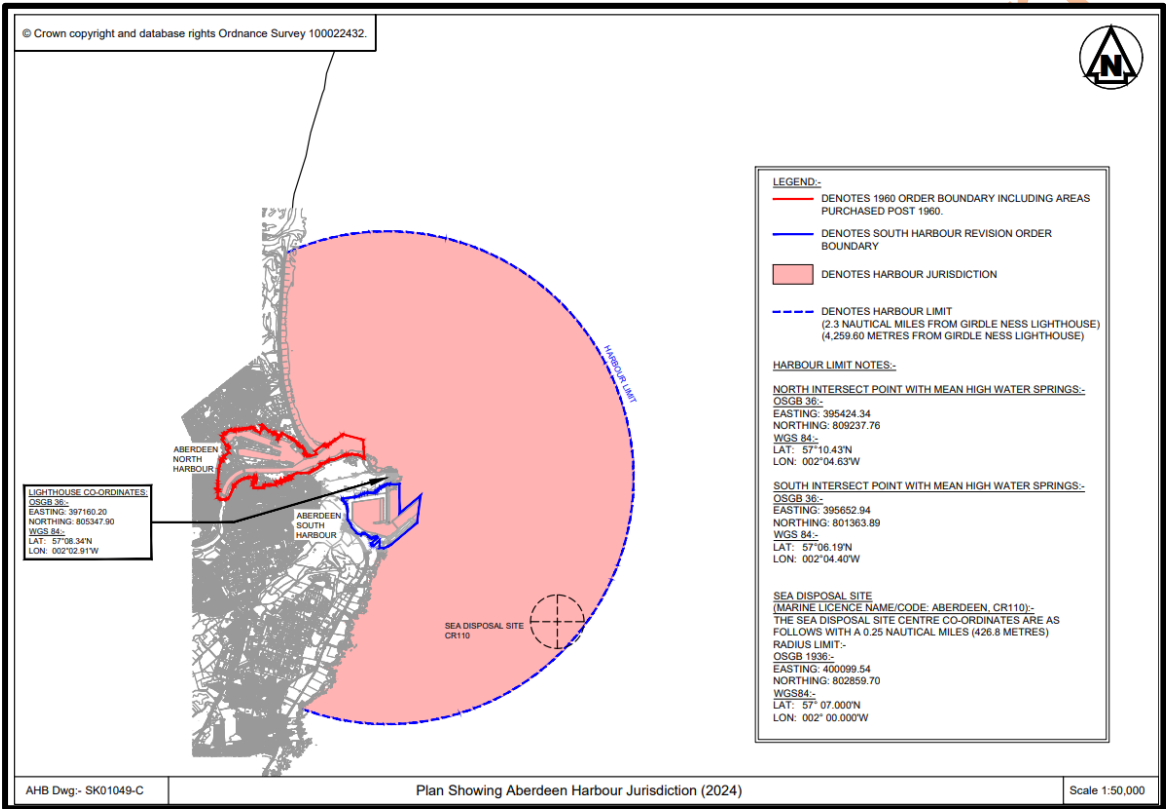
These Pilotage Directions shall come into full force and effect from 00:01(AM) 02nd December 2024 and from that date shall supersede all previous Pilotage Directions issued by the Board.

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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 area below the level of high water within a radius of 2.3 nautical miles from Girdle Ness Lighthouse at Aberdeen (which is located at latitude 57°08.34'N and longitude 002°02.91'W).



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APPENDIX 2

REGULATIONS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PILOTAGE EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES (PECs)

1. Pursuant to Section 8 of the Act, the Board as the Competent Harbour Authority may grant a PEC to a bona fide deck officer of a vessel if 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 (and any other vessels specified in the certificate) 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 a deck officer, and if requested, shall produce said certificate to the Harbour Master for inspection.
3. The applicant for a PEC shall hold a valid seafarers' medical certificate, and if requested, shall produce said certificate to the Harbour Master for inspection.
4. The applicant for a PEC shall undergo examination and shall satisfy the examiner(s) that they have 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 aids such as thrusters under all circumstances; and
 - (iv) all other matters deemed necessary by the examiner(s).

The ability of a PEC applicant to respond and deal with an emergency situation shall be assessed by an Authorised Pilot during voyages when they are present, and during examination by the examiner(s).

5. The 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 bona fide deck officer.

6. North Harbour:

The applicant for a PEC shall be required to satisfy the Board as to their local knowledge, and that during the previous twelve (12) month period, they have completed a minimum of twenty-four (24) voyages to and from said North Harbour (twelve (12) arrivals and twelve (12) departures) with effective responsibility for the conduct of the vessel under the direct supervision (and ultimate conduct) of an Authorised Pilot or PEC holder.

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7. For the purposes of paragraph six (6) above:

- ❖ in the case of offshore support vessels 75.00 metres in length to 84.99 metres, twelve (12) voyages shall be required – (six (6) arrivals and six (6) departures).
- ❖ in the case of offshore support vessels 85.00 metres in length to 99.99 metres, eighteen (18) voyages shall be required – (nine (9) arrivals and nine (9) departures).

8. For the purposes of paragraphs six (6) and seven (7) above, at least half of the voyages shall be conducted with an Authorised Pilot on board; including the first arrival or departure, and the last arrival or departure prior to the examination referred to in paragraph four (4).

9. South Harbour:

The applicant for a PEC shall be required to satisfy the Board as to their local knowledge, and that during the previous twelve (12) month period, they have completed a minimum of eighteen (18) voyages to and from said South Harbour (nine (9) arrivals and nine (9) departures) with effective responsibility for the conduct of the vessel under the direct supervision (and ultimate conduct) of an Authorised Pilot or PEC holder.

10. For the purposes of paragraph nine (9) above:

- ❖ in the case of offshore support vessels 75.00 metres in length to 99.99 metres, four (4) voyages shall be required – (two (2) arrivals and two (2) departures).
- ❖ in the case of offshore support vessels 100.00 metres in length to 124.99 metres, eight (8) voyages shall be required – (four (4) arrivals and four (4) departures).
- ❖ in the case of offshore support vessels 125.00 metres in length to 144.99 metres, twelve (12) voyages shall be required – (six (6) arrivals and six (6) departures).
- ❖ in the case of offshore support vessels 145.00 metres in length to 164.99 metres, sixteen (16) voyages shall be required – (eight (8) arrivals and eight (8) departures).

11. For the purposes of paragraphs nine (9) and ten (10) above, at least half of the voyages shall be conducted with an Authorised Pilot on board; including the first arrival or departure, and the last arrival or departure prior to the examination referred to in paragraph four (4).

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12. The requirements as stipulated above may be relaxed at the discretion of the examiner(s) for a vessel which may be engaged in harbour conservancy activity or associated works, operating within the harbour jurisdiction under the direction and orders of the Harbour Master.

13. Pilotage Exemption Certificates (PECs) shall be revalidated annually.

PECs will have a twelve (12) month validity from the date of issuance.

PECs may be revalidated at the discretion of the Board, provided that during the preceding twelve (12) month period, the PEC holder has completed the following:

❖ **North Harbour:**

- a minimum of six (6) arrivals and six (6) departures.

❖ **South Harbour:**

- offshore support vessels up to 124.99 metres in length – a minimum of two (2) arrivals and two (2) departures.
- offshore support vessels 125.00 metres in length and above, and all other vessels – a minimum of four (4) arrivals and four (4) departures.

PEC holders must take an Authorised Pilot for at least one (1) arrival and (1) departure check-trip to qualify for renewal of their certificate. Pilotage check-trips may be included in the requisite voyages as stipulated above.

PEC holders who have been out of district for a period greater than six (6) calendar months will be required to take an Authorised Pilot for one (1) inward and one (1) outward trip.

14. Restricted visibility criteria for vessels that may be navigating within the pilotage district is defined within the Port of Aberdeen Marine Safety Management System and Marine Procedure – Restricted Visibility (PoA-MSMS-04-VTS-PRO-001).

Simulator training may be offered to PEC holders to endorse their certificate with a restricted visibility endorsement > 200.0m. Said simulator training shall be carried out annually.

Conditions and or endorsements in relation to restricted visibility shall be specified on Pilotage Exemption Certificates.

15. The Board may suspend or revoke a PEC in accordance with Section 8A of the Act.

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Pilotage Exemption Certificate packs will be updated annually and are available upon request from the Port of Aberdeen Pilotage & Marine Department – PEC@portofaberdeen.co.uk.

Pilotage Exemption Certificate holders wishing to revalidate their PECs must provide documented qualifying voyage logs and associated supporting documentation to PEC@portofaberdeen.co.uk. PEC holders should note that PECs are not revalidated automatically.

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

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