

## **NOTICE TO MARINERS** 10 of 2016

UPDATED PLA PUBLICATION

# **GENERAL DIRECTIONS FOR NAVIGATION IN THE PORT OF LONDON 2016**

(IN FORCE FROM 1 JULY 2016)

### **Introduction**

In January 2016, the Port of London Authority (PLA) consulted publically on proposed changes to the current General Directions for Navigation in the Port of London 2011.

Following that consultation and a review of the feedback received, a number of further changes were made to the proposals.

### **General Directions 2016**

As a consequence of the above, General Directions for Navigation in the Port of London 2016 are now published, and will become effective as of **Friday 1 July 2016**.

On that date General Directions for Navigation in the Port of London 2011 (as amended) will be **revoked** and should not be used.

### **Summary of main changes introduced by General Directions 2016**

The following summarises the main changes to the current (2011) General Directions:

#### **Changes to existing General Directions**

##### **GD 4: Use of VHF Radio**

Amendment made to ensure that commercially operating vessels of more than 7 metres in length overall are required to have a VHF radio on board.

##### **GD 18: Persons on the Bridge**

Clearer guidance provided as to who must be at the conning position of any vessels underway in the Thames and new associated definitions.

##### **GD 28: Lookouts on Vessels Navigating Above the Thames Barrier**

Additional requirement placed upon vessels over 50 metres in length, to have a dedicated lookout at the helmsman's position when navigating above the Thames Barrier.

### **GD 29: Lights on Vessels Navigating Upstream of Cherry Garden Pier**

Amended have been made to ensure that vessels of more than 40 metres in length navigating above Cherry Garden should have their bows illuminated at night and in restricted visibility with an exemption to Tugs engaged in towing barges astern.

### **GD 38: Regulation and Movement of Ultra Large Container Ships**

Amended in light of recent experiences for vessels wishing to pass an ULCS.

In addition, a number of minor, editorial amendments have also been made to several Directions in an attempt to standardise and be more consistent in the language used in our regulatory framework.

### **Copies of General Directions for Navigation in the Port of London 2016**

Copies of the new General Directions 2016 are being sent to all operators, additional hard copies of the General Direction 2016 are available for a small charge however they are freely available on our website:

<http://www.pla.co.uk/assets/generaldirectionsfornavigation2016.pdf>.

Hard copies are available from the address below or please contact the PLA's Navigational Safety Systems Coordinator, by email: [SafetyManagement@pla.co.uk](mailto:SafetyManagement@pla.co.uk) or by calling: 01474 562269.

All PLA Byelaws, Directions and Codes of Practice are also available in electronic form on the PLA website at [www.pla.co.uk/Safety/Regulations-and-Guidance](http://www.pla.co.uk/Safety/Regulations-and-Guidance).

**27 May 2016**

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EXPIRY DATE: n/a  
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be recorded in the VTS Centres at Gravesend and Woolwich**

