

NOTICE TO MARINERS 19 of 2017

UPDATED PLA PUBLICATION **PILOTAGE DIRECTIONS 2017**

(IN FORCE FROM 1 OCTOBER 2017)

This Notice replaces 17 of 2017, postponing the introduction of the Pilotage Directions until 1st October 2017.

Introduction

Between October and November 2016 the Port of London Authority (PLA) consulted publically on proposed changes to the current Pilotage Directions 2013, following a scheduled 3-yearly review.

Following this exercise, additional changes were made to the PEC Regulations which also underwent a consultation between April and June 2017.

The feedback of these consultations is available on the PLA website here:

<http://www.pla.co.uk/Safety/Consultations/Navigational-Safety-Consultations>

Pilotage Directions 2017

As a consequence of the above, Pilotage Directions 2017 are now published, and will become effective as of **Sunday 1st October 2017**.

On that date Pilotage Directions 2013 will be **revoked** and any remaining copies should be withdrawn.

Summary of main changes introduced by Pilotage Directions 2017

Pilotage Directions

a. Pilotage Direction 3

- i) Various definitions have been reworded to avoid some confusion, in particular the definition of "Length Overall" regards to Tug and Tows in differing tow combinations.

b. Pilotage Direction 4

- i) The draught limit of compulsory pilotage for vessels navigating in restricted visibility has been increased from 4 to 5 metres.
- ii) An additional compulsory pilotage requirement now exists for vessels with a draught greater than 4 metres navigating tot the West of Margaretness.

- c. Pilotage Direction 5 - the exception from compulsory pilotage for tugs licensed under the PLA Act has been removed.

- d. Pilotage Direction 9 – boarding and landing in adverse weather conditions – has been replaced by a statement that vessels may be asked to use an alternative boarding or landing location by VTS.
- e. Pilotage Direction 10 – non-availability of Pilots - has been removed
- f. Pilotage Direction 12 – responsibilities of masters - has been removed, as this is superseded by an amendment to General Direction 18.

Pilotage Regulations

- a. PEC Area 3A has been removed – this is incorporated within Area 3.
- b. The regulation covering the suspension or revocation of a PEC has been revised to more closely follow section 8A of the Pilotage Act and better clarify where PECs can be revoked or suspended.
- c. A new ‘Class B PEC’ (PEC B) has been introduced, which is applicable for intra-port tugs and tows between Sea Reach 1 and Margaretness, due to the removal of Pilotage Direction 5(2) which exempts tugs licensed under the PLA Act from compulsory pilotage. A number of the regulations have been amended to incorporate this and clarify the qualifying criteria.
- d. The previous PECs are renamed Class A PECs (PEC A).
- e. A ‘Tug Endorsement’ for PEC (A) holders has been introduced to authorise the use of ship towage tugs. A number of the regulations have been amended to incorporate this.
- f. PEC (A) applicants for vessels greater than 145m (rather than 160m) are required to submit a sample passage plan as part of their application and undertake simulator training.
- g. Additional tripping requirements exist for PEC (A) applicants of vessels greater than 190m which are determined on a case by case basis.

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

Pilotage Directions 2017 is available to download to your computer, smart phone and/or tablet as a PDF from our website at <https://server1.pla.co.uk/assets/pilotagedirections.pdf>

If you require a hard copy, it can be printed from the download or directly via the website. Printed copies can also be supplied by the PLA for a reasonable fee. Please contact the PLA’s Navigational Safety Systems Coordinator, by email: 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 <http://www.pla.co.uk/Safety/Regulations-and-Guidance>

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**Telephone calls, VHF radio traffic, CCTV and radar traffic images may
be recorded in the VTS Centres at Gravesend and Woolwich**

