

NOTICE TO AGENTS, BERTH AND SHIP OPERATORS No.10 of 2015

THAMES ESTUARY

GENERAL DIRECTION 13(3) NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS COMPLIANCE REPORTING

General Direction for Navigation in the Port of London number 13(3) requires that prior to a Reporting Vessel's arrival at the outer limits, their intention to navigate in the Thames shall be reported to the Harbourmaster through London VTS. The report shall include confirmation that the vessel 'complies with the navigational safety requirements of PLA General Directions'. This report has traditionally been made upon the vessels arrival at the limits of the London VTS area.

The report consists of a confirmation that:

- a) the vessel's charts for the Thames and associated navigational publications are corrected and up to date;
- b) the Master has prepared an appropriate Port Passage Plan for use during the vessel's passage in the Thames;
- c) the vessel, if appropriate, is compliant with the requirements of the ISM Code;
- d) if the vessel is not subject to the ISM Code, that the vessel has no deficiencies or defects in respect of its manning, navigational equipment, propulsion or manoeuvring machinery;

With effect from 0001 on the 1st December 2015, the VHF reporting of a vessels compliancy with the navigational safety requirements of the PLA General Directions will no longer be required.

The report shall instead be made as a component of the vessels advance notification to London VTS by means of PISCES or via the vessel notification form. For vessels proceeding to the Medway Ports, this report shall be made as a component of the advance vessel notification to Peel Ports Medway who will relay the information to London VTS.

By obtaining this information in advance of a vessels arrival, the vessel will be aware of the requirements of the General Direction. Additionally, in the event of any doubt, there will be time to consider appropriate actions to resolve any problems thereby reducing the risk of vessels being delayed or refused entry into the port.

Agents are advised to implement a process to obtain confirmation that the vessel complies with the relevant components of the General Direction to avoid the risk of disruption to a vessels arrival from the 1st December 2015.

23 November 2015

Port of London Authority
London River House
Royal Pier Road
Gravesend, Kent DA12 2BG

**DAVID PHILLIPS
CHIEF HARBOUR MASTER**



Owners, Agents and Charterers should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.

TO RECEIVE FUTURE NOTICES TO MARINERS BY E-MAIL,
PLEASE REGISTER VIA OUR WEBSITE www.pla.co.uk

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



PORT OF LONDON
AUTHORITY