

NOTICE TO AGENTS, BERTH AND SHIP OPERATORS No.6 of 2018

SAFE MEANS OF ACCESS

Berth operators are reminded that, whilst there are statutory obligations on masters to provide safe access and egress from their vessels, berth operators also have a duty of care to maintain a safe work area on their berth including safe access to and from the berth.

Failure to provide a safe means of access to and from a vessel alongside a berth puts berth operatives, ships crew, pilots, agents, surveyors, etc who are required to access the vessel at risk. Under the Port Marine Safety Code, marine berths, terminals or jetties are required to adopt a formal risk assessment process and implement a marine Safety Management System, which should include the management of safe access.

General guidance on the topic of safe access can be found in the Port Skills and Safety Document 'SIP014 – Guidance on Safe Access and Egress in Ports' obtainable at:
<https://www.portskillsandsafety.co.uk/resources/sip014-guidance-safe-access-and-egress>

Port of London Authority Pilots have the right to refuse to board any vessel where a safe means of access is not provided, which may result in delays. The Port of London Authority will fully support all pilots who decline to board vessels in these circumstances.

Whilst alternative means of boarding, such as from the river, may be sought, this will always be a last resort and the PLA cannot guarantee that alternative means will be available. Any alternative means of access utilised may incur an additional charge. Therefore it is in the berth operator's interest to ensure that a safe means of access to and from vessels on their berth is maintained.

21st August 2018

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

BOB BAKER
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

