

## **The Dee Estuary Pilotage Area and approaches - Pilotage Regulations.**

These Regulations provide details of the administrative requirements and arrangements for Pilotage in the Dee Estuary Pilotage Area and the main navigable approach channel. They are published to support the Pilotage Directions issued by Mostyn Docks Limited, as Competent Harbour Authority (CHA) and should be read in conjunction with those Pilotage Directions.

1. Interpretations- For these Pilotage Regulations only, the ‘Harbour’ means the ‘Dee Estuary Pilotage Area and the main navigable approach channel’ and are the limits of jurisdiction for purposes of pilotage as defined in the Mostyn Docks Harbour Revision Orders 1988 and 2016.
2. Every vessel to which compulsory pilotage applies, when navigating within that part of the Harbour for which compulsory pilotage applies in respect of that vessel, shall be under the conduct of a pilot authorised by Mostyn Docks Limited, or a holder of a valid Pilotage Exemption Certificate issued by Mostyn Docks Limited.
3. Exemption
  - a) A bona fide Master or Mate of a vessel may apply for a Pilotage Exemption Certificate, but must satisfy the Competent Harbour Authority (Mostyn Docks Limited) by examination, he/she has such level of skill, experience and local knowledge sufficient for him/her to be capable of Piloting the vessel(s) named on his/her certificate, and that his/her knowledge of the English language is sufficient for that purpose.
  - b) All applications must be made on the prescribed form (*MD PEC 1 as amended*), which may be downloaded from the Port’s website or obtained from the Harbour office. Evidence of medical fitness, including eyesight, by a medical practitioner equivalent to that required under the Merchant Shipping (Medical Examination) Regulations 2002, as amended or, if for a vessel other than a U.K. registered vessel, the equivalent National Maritime Medical certificate, must also be produced.
  - c) The person applying for a Pilotage Exemption Certificate must produce evidence that during the 12 months prior to his/her application, he/she has completed the tripping requirements for the size of vessel for which they wish to be granted a PEC.
    - i) Vessels of a length overall of 50 metres or greater  
12 voyages over that part of the Harbour for which he/she is being examined as Master or Mate of ships of substantially the same class. These must include at least three voyages each under the following conditions, Spring Tide Maximum Flood, Spring Tide Maximum Ebb and during the hours of darkness.
    - ii) Vessels with a length overall of less than 50 metres  
4 voyages over that part of the Harbour for which he/she is being examined as Master or Mate of ships of substantially the same class. These must

include at least one voyage each under the following conditions, Spring Tide Maximum Flood, Spring Tide Maximum Ebb and during the hours of darkness.

d) Candidates will be granted a Pilotage Exemption Certificate immediately on successful completion of the examination and practical experience. A failed candidate will not be re-examined until at least a further 3 voyages have been made, all failed candidates will be informed the reason for the failure.

4. Pilotage Exemption Certificates

- a) Certificates will state the name or names of each vessel that the holder is authorized to pilot, the area within the jurisdiction for which the exemption is applicable and any restrictions which may apply. Certificate holders will not allow any other person to have possession of or make improper use of the certificate.
- b) Certificates are valid for a period of one year from the date of issue.

5. Fees for Pilotage Exemption Certificates.

- a) The examination or re-examination fee for vessels with a length overall of 50m or more is equivalent to the minimum pilotage charge as published annually.
- b) The examination or re-examination fee for vessels with a length overall of less than 50 metres is 50% of the minimum pilotage charge as published annually.
- c) Revalidation without examination - 50% of the applicable examination fee.
- d) Any alterations or additions to the certificate - 25% of the applicable examination fee.

6. Renewal of Pilotage Exemption Certificates

- a) Application for the renewal of a Pilotage Exemption Certificate must be made at least one month before the expiry date. Applications must be made on the prescribed form (*MD PEC 2 as amended*), which may be downloaded from the Port's website or obtained from the Harbour Master.
- b) Renewal without examination is possible, provided that the holder has completed the tripping requirements as specified in Regulation 3c during the preceding 12 months, and that evidence of continued medical fitness, including eyesight is produced.
- c) All Pilotage Exemption Certificate holders will be re-assessed and re-examined at intervals not exceeding 5 years, however Mostyn Docks Limited may at its discretion require an applicant for renewal of a Pilotage Exemption Certificate to submit for re-assessment and re-examination at any time.

7. Charges for use of Pilotage Exemption Certificates.

- a) For vessels with a length overall of 50 metres or greater, the owner or charterer of such vessel, where the Master or Mate holds a Pilotage Exemption Certificate in respect of that vessel for the Dee Estuary Pilotage Area, shall for each occasion on which the Master or Mate may navigate this vessel within the Pilotage Area in circumstances in which the employment of a pilot would otherwise be compulsory, pay to the pilotage authority three tenths of the pilotage dues (pilotage rates and

boarding and landing rates) which would have been payable in respect of that ship had the Master or Mate had employed a Pilot.

- b) The holder of a Pilotage Exemption Certificate shall make monthly returns to the Pilotage Authority within seven days after the end of each month of the ships navigated by them within the Pilotage Area.

8. Failure to take a Dee Pilot

- a) A vessel which is being navigated within the Dee Estuary Pilotage Area and is subject to compulsory Pilotage must either be under the conduct of an Authorised Pilot or under the conduct of the holder of a Pilotage Exemption Certificate in respect of that vessel and area. Section 15 of the Pilotage Act of 1987 provides that if such a vessel is not so Piloted after an Authorised Pilot has offered to take charge of that vessel, the Master shall be guilty of an offence.
- b) Section 15 of the Act also provides that if the Master of a vessel navigates their vessel in an area and in circumstances in which Pilotage is compulsory without notifying the Competent Harbour Authority that he/she intends to do so, they shall be guilty of an offence.
- c) Section 17 of the Act also provides:
  - i) An authorised pilot may, within the harbour in relation to which he is authorized, supersede as the pilot of a vessel any unauthorised person who has been employed to pilot it.
  - ii) If the Master of any vessel navigates in any part of the harbour under the pilotage of an unauthorised person without notifying the Competent Harbour Authority that he/she proposes to do so, they shall be guilty of an offence.
  - iii) If an unauthorised person pilots a vessel within the harbour knowing that an authorised pilot has offered to pilot it, he/she shall be guilty of an offence.
  - iv) If the Master of a vessel navigating within the harbour knowingly employs or continues to employ an unauthorised person to pilot their vessel after an authorised pilot has offered to pilot it, he/she shall be guilty of an offence.

9) Conditions of use of a Pilotage Exemption Certificate (PEC) When a Master or Mate holding a Pilotage Exemption Certificate has the conduct of a vessel navigating or intending to navigate within the Harbour he/she shall:

- a) Report his/her intentions to the Mostyn Harbour Master.
- b) Ensure that they are adequately rested and fit.
- c) Ensure that the bridge manning levels support the PEC holder and are such that while conducting the act of pilotage the PEC Holder will have no other duties.
- d) Calculate the minimum height of tide required for safe navigation within the Mostyn Channel and port area, based on the latest information of available depths of water, published by the Mostyn Harbour Master.
- e) If intending to navigate upstream of Mostyn, determine the best navigable route by low water observation, and/or any other available means.
- f) Strictly observe any speed restrictions within the pilotage area and any other specific direction given to him/her by the Mostyn Harbour Master, and report to the Harbour Master when instructed.

- g) Confirm to the Mostyn Harbour Master that a comprehensive Passage Plan has been prepared and will be monitored throughout the passage.
- h) Confirm to the Mostyn Harbour Master that their vessel has no notifiable defects, or report any such defects to the Harbour Master.
- i) Strictly observe any specific direction given to him/her by the Dee Conservancy Harbour Master.
- j) Immediately report any navigation incidents or deficiencies, the absence or failure of any established aid to navigation, or any obstruction or change in the navigable channel including suspected decrease in depths available, in writing to the Mostyn Harbour Master.
- k) Prior to entering the Mostyn Channel, or passing through Connah's Quay make a safety broadcast on VHF channel 14, this may be preceded by notification of such broadcast on VHF Channel 16, and carry out a visual check to confirm that the channel is clear of other vessels.
- l) Actively update their knowledge as and when circumstances change.

**Note: Mobile phones are not to be used for navigational purposes and are not to be operated by a PEC holder or an Authorised Pilot while they have the conduct of a vessel.**

- 10) Duties of an Authorised Pilot When a pilot authorised by Mostyn Docks Limited has the conduct of a vessel navigating or intending to navigate within the Harbour he/she shall:
- a) Ensure that they are adequately rested and fit to conduct the pilotage assigned.
  - b) Calculate the minimum height of tide required for safe navigation within the Mostyn Channel and port area, based on the latest information of available depths of water, published by the Mostyn Harbour Master.
  - c) Strictly observe any speed restrictions within the pilotage area and any other specific direction given to him/her by the Mostyn Harbour Master.
  - d) Complete the Pilot/ Master information exchange provided by Mostyn Docks Ltd. receive confirmation from the master that the ship has no notifiable defects, and that a comprehensive Passage Plan has been prepared, and will be monitored throughout the passage.
  - e) Prior to conducting any act of pilotage upstream of Mostyn, determine the best navigable route by low water observation and/or any other available means.
  - f) Immediately report any navigation incidents or deficiencies, the absence or failure of any established aid to navigation, or any obstruction or change in the navigable channel including suspected decrease in depths available, in writing to the Mostyn Harbour Master.
  - g) Prior to entering the Mostyn Channel, or passing through Connah's Quay make a safety broadcast on VHF channel 14, this may be preceded by notification of such broadcast on VHF Channel 16, and carry out a visual check to confirm that the channel is clear of other vessels.

11) Authorisation of Pilots.

The Competent Harbour Authority will keep the requirement for Pilots under review. Trainee Pilots will undergo a suitable period of training aboard all vessel types that navigate within that part of the Dee Pilotage Area for which they will be authorised. Training will include as a minimum all the elements as specified for Pilotage Exemption in these regulations and within the PEC application form (*MD PEC 1, as amended*), and have due regard for the National Occupational Standards. During assessment and examination the trainee pilot must satisfy the Competent Harbour Authority, that he or she has such level of skill, experience and local knowledge sufficient for them to safely Pilot the size and type of vessel, within that part of the Harbour for which they are to be authorised. Any extension of authorisation in respect of size / type of vessel, or extending to other parts of Harbour will require additional training, assessment and examination. Individual authorisations of Pilots will be reviewed by the Competent Harbour Authority at intervals not exceeding 5 years and will be subject to continuing ongoing experience, which must include at least 12 voyages within the pilotage area in any 12month period.

12) Investigation of Incidents or Failure to Comply with Regulations.

Any serious incident or marine casualty involving an Authorised Pilot, or a Pilotage Exemption Certificate Holder, or any failure to observe these regulations will be thoroughly investigated by the Competent Harbour Authority (CHA), and appropriate action taken, which may lead to suspension or revocation of the Authorisation, or Pilotage Exemption Certificate as appropriate. Any such action taken by the CHA will be in accordance with the provisions of the "Pilotage Act 1987".

13) Pilotage Services

The services of a Pilot may be obtained through the Harbour Master, either directly or through an Agent, normally 24hour Notice is required.

Mostyn Harbour Master Telephone No. 01745 560335  
Email : harbourmaster@portofmostyn.com  
Mostyn Maritime Agent Telephone No. 01745 560335  
Fax No. 01745 560324  
Email : agency@portofmostyn.com

VHF Radio Channel 14 is monitored whenever a pilotage act is scheduled.