



Pilotage Policy

April 2025

Poole Harbour Commissioners (PHC) is a Competent Harbour Authority (CHA) within the meaning of the Pilotage Act 1987 and publishes Pilotage Directions. These Directions define PHC’s Pilotage District and the requirements for compulsory pilotage within it. They also lay down regulations under which Pilotage Exemption Certificates (PEC) are issued and administered within the Pilotage District.

PHC Board policy in respect to pilotage is to:

1. Ensure that the operation of the pilotage service is compliant with national regulations, guidelines and competency standards.
2. Recruit, employ, train, examine and authorise pilotage staff to national competence levels in full compliance with the requirements of the Pilotage Act 1987, Port Marine Safety Code and National Occupational Standards.
3. Keep under review its Pilotage Directions to ensure that they are based on formal risk assessment and are fully in accord with the current Navigational Safety Management System.
4. Promote close working relationships between Pilots, VTS Officers, Pilot boat crew and Port Operations staff.
5. Maintain a competent and Authorised Pilotage Service.
6. Ensure Pilot boat crew are trained and certified in accordance with the requirements of the Small Commercial Vessel Code (MGN 280).
7. Ensure the Pilot boats operated by the Authority are surveyed and certified under the Merchant Shipping (Small Workboats and Pilot Boats) Regulations 1998 and the associated Small Commercial Vessel Code (MGN 280).
8. Maintain a fully supported Pilotage Service, able to respond to all properly notified pilotage requirements.
9. Keep the means of boarding and landing pilots under review to ensure that these operations are always undertaken as safely as possible in line with the Code of Safe Practice for the Embarkation and Disembarkation of Pilots.

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10. Administer the PEC system to ensure that all PEC applicants and holders fully meet the requirements laid down in the Pilotage Directions.

Nothing in this Policy shall subvert existing Harbour Byelaws, General Directions, regulations or terms and conditions.

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