



PMSC Policy Statement

April 2025

The Chief Executive and the Commissioners of Poole Harbour Authority are the Duty Holders and for the purposes of the Port Marine Safety Code, both collectively and individually, accept responsibility for ensuring that the Harbour Authority discharges its duties in accordance with the Code. They have responsibility and accountability for the Harbour Authority’s role and powers in relation to marine operations and harbour undertakings within their control. The Chief Executive is responsible for the operational and financial control of the Harbour Authority. The Chief Executive and Commissioners are advised on all matters related to the Authority’s statutory powers and duties by the Harbour Master, Officers and Safety Manager. The Chief Executive oversees the implementation of policies and decisions of the authority and has ultimate executive responsibility for the safety of operations and staff.

The Board of the Statutory Harbour Authority understands their statutory and common law duties, which include an obligation to conserve and facilitate the safe use of the harbour and an express duty to take such action as the Harbour Authority considers necessary or desirable for, or incidental, to maintenance, operation, improvement or conservancy of the harbour.

The Board of the Duty Holders is committed to undertake and regulate marine operations in a way that safeguards Poole Harbour, its users, the public and the environment. Consultations take place with those who work in and use the harbour to ensure that they are fully involved in the preparation of safety policies and procedures. Full and comprehensive risk assessments have been undertaken in respect of all activities and facilities within the harbour, leading to the development of a comprehensive Safety Management System for marine operations. Protection of the environment is recognised by general and specific duties to exercise functions in a manner which has due regard to nature conservation and environmental considerations.

The Commissioners will ensure that current plans are available to deal with emergency situations, and that the resources required to implement and exercise these plans are maintained.

The Board of the Duty Holders is committed to the continuous improvement of safety within Poole Harbour by the continuous development of policies, systems and techniques of risk control governed by an independent audit system.

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

Poole Harbour Commissioners	Document ID PHC POLICY – SMS 77	Authorised By Duty Holder	Original Date November 2001	Page Number
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