

Restricted Visibility Routine

Mariners are advised that Restricted Visibility Routine will be put into force by Poole VTS when the visibility is reduced such there is extra risk of impeding larger vessels navigating in the main shipping channels by radar. This is generally when visibility is at 500 metres or less. After “**Restricted Visibility Routine is now in force**” is broadcasted by VTS on VHF Channel 14, the following measures are to be observed until a further cancelling broadcast:

All vessels must:

- As usual monitor VHF Ch 14 closely to remain abreast of movements of reporting vessels.
- Not exit the Little Channel until any underway ship clears the Middle Ship Channel inbound or Turning Basin outbound.
- Comply with relevant requirements of the Collision Regulations: to keep a effective lookout by all available means including radar (rule 5), to proceed at a safe speed (Rules 6 and 19); to display navigation lights (Rule 26); and to make the correct sound signals (Rule 35). Further guidance is available in [MGN 369](#).

Yachts and other craft of less than 25 metres in length are strongly advised not to leave their berth.

Those who decide to leave their berth:

- Must proceed with extreme caution and keep to starboard extremity of shipping channels
- Must not participate in racing.
- Should observe radio silence on VHF Ch 14 except in emergency.

Reporting vessels (25 metres LOA or over) can expect to receive enhanced traffic information from Poole VTS after requesting traffic clearance as usual.

Larger vessels subject to mandatory pilotage:

- Should note that suspension of pilotage will be considered case-by-case, excluding cross-channel ferries
- Should expect for Pilot Boarding to take place further south than usual to allow for a longer MPX
- Must maintain a separation of one nautical mile when moving in the same direction.
- Are reminded that a Poole Pilot must be taken onboard during Restricted Visibility and when it could be imminent except where a PEC holder also holds a fog endorsement (not held by any current PEC holder)

Mariners are reminded that Radar, AIS, CCTV, Telephone and VHF Channels are recorded 24/7.

Owners, Agents, Charterers, Marinas, Yacht Clubs and Recreational Water Sport Organisations should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft. LNTM 04 of 2024 is hereby superseded.

Harry Gregory
HARBOUR MASTER

Active Local Notices are available online: www.phc.co.uk/safety/local-notice-to-mariners