



Environmental Guidance for Commercial Vessels

Version 1 – May 2026

<p>Ballast Water</p>	<p>The discharge of ballast water may be permitted subject to the vessel complying with the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments. The Convention requires vessels to have an operational water management system in place [D1 or D2 Standard] or to be able to demonstrate that ballast water has been exchanged or treated in open waters [200 nm from shore and in water at least 200m in depth]. Please refer to the IMO guidance for further information. Otherwise the discharge of ballast water is prohibited within Poole Harbour Limits. Vessels wishing to discharge ballast water should contact VTS.</p> <p>Dirty ballast water can, however, be discharged ashore for treatment.</p> <p>Cleaning or repair of ships' ballast water tanks must be undertaken only at sediment reception facilities which are designed and operated in accordance with the latest Merchant Shipping Notice.</p>
<p>Sewage</p>	<p>The discharge of untreated sewage is prohibited within Poole Harbour Limits. Discharges from approved and certified sewage treatment plants is permitted provided the discharge is clear with no solid material.</p> <p>Partially treated or disinfected sewage (grey water) discharges are also prohibited within the harbour area. Such discharges are, however, permitted at a distance of more than 3 nautical miles from land.</p> <p>Untreated sewage (black water) must only be discharged at a distance of more than 12 nautical miles from land.</p>
<p>Tank Washings</p>	<p>Tank washing discharges are prohibited within Poole Harbour Limits.</p>
<p>Bilge Water</p>	<p>Ship-owners, Masters and Operators of water-frontage installations are reminded that it is an offence to discharge oil, or any mixture containing oil into Harbour, River or Dock Waters. The discharge of clean bilge may only be carried out with the prior permission of the Harbour Master. Local reception is via road tanker or other bunded mobile tank arrangement arranged by agent and approved by PHC.</p>

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Ship generated waste streams	For occasions visitors, arranged via agent and accredited providers in line with Port Waste Management Plan. Frequent callers to hold contract with local contractor approved by port.
Deck cleaning using chemicals	Prohibited except when using MARPOL compliant chemicals and following grant of permit from Natural England and EA. Prior permission required with considerable notice. Contact VTS.
Hull cleaning with or without chemicals	Prohibited.
Propellor Polishing	Prohibited.
Hull painting – touch up	Allowed with restrictions. Contact VTS.
Hull painting – large scale	Allowed with restrictions, permits may be required. Contact VTS.
Bunkering	Advise agent of any bulk liquid transfers who must submit formal bunkering notification for VTS to authorise. Bunkering can only be supplied by list of approved companies (as listed on the form at www.phc.co.uk/authorisations)
Life Boat Lowering	Contact VTS to request permission before starting and advice once complete
Maximum fuel sulphur content	Poole is located within the North Sea Sulphur Emissions Control Area (SECA). Maximum fuel sulphur content 0.1% m/m.
Exhaust Gas Cleaning Systems (EGCS) (Scrubbers)	Open Loop EGCS use allowed - to be operated in accordance with IMO guidelines. Closed Loop systems are permitted.
Spudding Down	Generally prohibited except for small workboats with standing permission or unless as part of risk assessed construction project / dredge campaign.
Noise Pollution	Whistle sounding and alarm testing is only allowed with VTS permission. Every effort should be made to keep between 8am and 6pm.
Visible Emissions	Prohibited except under the Provisions of the Clean Air (Miscellaneous Provisions) (England) Regulations 2014
Incinerator Use	Prohibited

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