

NOTICE TO MARINERS No.5 of 2021

UPDATED PLA PUBLICATIONS GENERAL DIRECTIONS 2016 UPDATE & PERMANENT NOTICE TO MARINERS WITHDRAWAL

New General Directions for Navigation in the Port of London

In July 2020, the Port of London Authority (PLA) consulted publicly on proposed changes to the current General Directions for Navigation in the Port of London 2016 and in response to feedback received during the consultation, several further amendments have been made.

Following the completion of this process, the General Directions for Navigation in the Port of London are now published and will become effective as of Monday 1st March 2021. On that date the General Directions for Navigation in the Port of London 2016 will be revoked and should not be used.

Changes to the 2016 General Directions include the implementation of several new General Directions and a restructuring of the document to provide more intuitive indexing. In addition, several editorial amendments have also been made to a number of Directions to standardise the language used within our regulatory framework.

Due to the extensive nature of the amendments to the General Directions, the PLA encourages all river users to review the new document in full. However, the main changes are summarised below:

- GD 4: Consolidation of requirements for the provision of passage plans and formal risk assessment by vessels navigating on the Thames.
- GD 12: Consolidation of requirements for VHF Carriage and use.
- GD 27: Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles – New requirements for the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.
- GD 31: New Lighting Requirements for Pushed Convoys underway by night – additional lighting requirements for vessels engaged in pushing operations when underway by night.
- GD 32: Vessel Registration Requirements – New requirement for commercial Intra-port vessels to register with the PLA from 31st December 2021.
- GD 33: Vessel Manning – New requirement outlining manning requirements for vessels over 50m LOA, except dumb vessels.

The new General Directions have been published electronically in a web based (html) format and downloadable PDF. These can be accessed on the PLA website at:

<https://www.pla.co.uk/Safety/Regulations-and-Guidance/PLA-General-Directions>

The PLA has also published its responses to the feedback received during the consultation, which can be found here:

<http://www.pla.co.uk/Safety/Consultations/Navigational-Safety-Consultations>

Withdrawal of Permanent Notices to Mariners

With immediate effect, all Permanent Notices to Mariners are withdrawn. Any Notices which remain relevant have been incorporated into other publications, such as the revised General Directions for Navigation, or re-issued as annual Notices to Mariners.

15 February 2021

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PLEASE REGISTER VIA OUR WEBSITE www.pla.co.uk
**Telephone calls, VHF radio traffic, CCTV and radar traffic images may
be recorded in the VTS Centres at Gravesend and Woolwich**
All Current Notices to Mariners can be found here -
<http://www.pla.co.uk/Safety/Regulations-and-Guidance/Notices-to-Mariners/Notices-to-Mariners>

