

NOTICE TO MARINERS No.7 of 2017

BRIDGE MANNING REQUIREMENTS

Masters are reminded of the requirements for bridge manning, as laid down in the General Directions for Navigation in the Port of London 2016.

7. AUTOMATIC STEERING AND BACKUP STEERING GEAR

- (1) *When use is being made of an automatic pilot steering device, a qualified helmsman, other than the authorised pilot, is to be present on the bridge to steer the vessel manually should circumstances demand.*

General Direction 7 requires a qualified helmsman to be present on the bridge. This is in addition to the Pilot and deck officer. Failure to provide sufficient bridge manning, to the satisfaction of the Pilot, may result in a vessel's passage into or out of the port being delayed until such time as the manning requirements can be met.

Where a Pilot is replaced by a PEC holder, the same requirements will apply.

18. PERSONS ON THE BRIDGE

- (1) *There must be, at the conning position of any vessel underway in the Thames, either:*
 - a) *in the case of a commercial vessel, a deck officer holding a certificate of competency or equivalent, in a fit state to take navigational conduct of the vessel, or*
 - b) *in the case of a pleasure vessel, the master or member of the crew, in a fit state to take navigational conduct of the vessel.*
- (2) *When a pilot is embarked the person referenced in 18.1, must be capable of understanding the pilot's directions.*
- (3) *When a PEC holder has navigational conduct of a vessel within the London Pilotage District, a deck officer, holding a certificate of competency or equivalent, in a fit state to take navigational conduct of the vessel, must be immediately available to take over the navigation of the vessel in an emergency or as circumstances may require.*

When a PEC holder rather than a Pilot has navigational conduct it is the Master's responsibility to ensure that an additional deck officer is immediately available, in addition to the PEC holder on the bridge.

16 March 2017

Port of London Authority
London River House, Royal Pier Road,
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BOB BAKER
CHIEF HARBOUR MASTER



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