

PORT MARINE SAFETY CODE

MARINE SAFETY PLAN 2012 - 2014

Introduction

As part of its compliance with the requirements of the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC), the Port of London Authority (PLA) publishes the following Marine Safety Plan for marine operations in the Port of London for the period 2012 – 2014.

A more comprehensive overview (at a strategic level) of the structure, management and maintenance of the port's Navigational Safety Management System (SMS) and the PLA's compliance with the PMSC in support of this Plan, is contained in the navigational SMS Manual. (See the Port of London Authority website at: www.pla.co.uk.)

1. Marine Policies

The PLA has published a number of marine policies in support of the management and regulation of marine operations on the tidal Thames, and the maintenance of the port's Navigational SMS. Strategic navigational policies are approved by the PLA Board, as Duty Holder under the PMSC.

These are:

- Navigational Safety Policy
- Enforcement and Prosecution Policy

Subordinate departmental operational policy statements are approved by the Navigational Management Team and cover the following provisions:

- Vessel Traffic Services;
- Pilotage;
- Hydrographic;
- Marine Training; and
- Consultation.

All are included in the PLA's SMS Manual and are available in hard copy, upon request. The Navigational Safety and Enforcement and Prosecution policies are also published separately on the website. (See Annex).

In line with current policy, all the marine policies and subordinate statements are reviewed every three years. They were last considered early in 2011, and the next scheduled review is due in 2014.

2. Marine Procedures

Operational procedures, processes and guidance in support of the PLA's navigational services and marine operations are developed and maintained by the relevant departments; drawing on the strategic navigational policies as required. All are reviewed on a regular basis by the respective management teams.

3. The Management of Marine Operations

This Marine Safety Plan commits the PLA to undertaking the management and regulation of marine operations, within the scope of its powers and authority, in a way that safeguards the port, users of the port, including members of the public, and the environment.

The PLA will undertake its role and responsibilities to ensure that, whenever possible, it provides efficient and effective services and the regulation of shipping and other vessels in support of all activities in the harbour; in particular commercial vessel movements, to facilitate the safe and prompt transit of vessels through the port.

In ensuring the continued provision of services, especially during times of disruption, the PLA will always keep the safety of its personnel, River users and vessels as a priority. At times this may mean that services and therefore vessel movements or activities are subject to delay. However, the safety of life and of navigation remains a priority for the PLA.

4. Established Management Activities

A number of key functions underpin the operation and maintenance of the port's navigational SMS. In addition to the core services provided by the PLA marine departments, the following processes ensure the maintenance of an effective regime and support compliance with the requirements of the PMSC:

- Twice-monthly Navigational Management Team meetings;
- Dedicated risk assessments of new and existing marine operations and services as required;
- The proactive and reactive review of identified hazards to navigation and the associated risk control measures that mitigate those risks to an acceptable (As Low As Reasonably Practicable) level;
- The investigation of all reported navigational incidents and the maintenance of a comprehensive incident management system;
- The provision of Navigational Advisory Panels involving, as necessary, relevant practitioners, operators, River users and interested parties to, for example, review navigational incidents, undertake ad-hoc risk assessments and to develop or review relevant guidance and procedures;
- Regular, wide-ranging liaison with River users, practitioners and other interested parties through formal and informal public consultations, River User Consultative Forums, specialist users groups, ad-hoc review groups and public meetings;
- A long-established and effective Pilotage Operational Advisory Panel comprising marine management and sea and river pilots, which includes representation from Peel Ports – Medway;
- Regular external audits and reviews of the navigational SMS, its functions and procedures;
- Comprehensive training and development for marine departments' staff; and
- The maintenance and exercising of PLA marine emergency plans and procedures, including oil spill management and business continuity plans.

5. Ongoing Management Targets for the period of the Plan

The following targets have been set for the three-year period ending on 31 December 2014.

Standing Targets

	<u>Service Provision / Activity</u>	<u>Target</u>
1.	Navigational Incidents	No major incidents, serious injuries or serious pollution as a result of a failure of the port's navigational Safety Management System and/or of associated PLA safety service provision.
2.	Vessel Traffic Services – Operational capability and delivery	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide an effective Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) throughout the port; and control navigation in the vicinity of the Thames Flood Defence Barrier to ensure its safety and integrity 2. Seek to ensure that the PLA VTS system operates at 99.9% availability through a maintenance, procurement and installation strategy for VTS equipment, which will add to the reliability of individual elements of the VTS system or to its duplication.
3.	Provision of a Pilotage service including the authorisation of Pilotage Exemptions	No major incidents resulting from Pilotage errors.
4.	Conservancy and Hydrographic Survey	<p>Ensure that the Port and approaches have an adequate schedule of hydrographic surveys and that these are undertaken in line with the defined schedule and that the results are published within the target timescales.</p> <p>Specifically:</p> <p><u>Navigation Safety Surveys</u> – Significant data to be promulgated within 24 hours; and Surveys to be completed within 3 days (or 5% of period) of target.</p> <p><u>Conservancy Surveys</u> – No surveys to be outstanding (significantly overdue) beyond 10% of the period beyond the due date. Surveys to be published within 8 weeks of the survey being undertaken.</p> <p><u>Wreck & Obstruction Investigation</u> - Investigate all reported wreck and obstruction on immediate mobilisation. Issue navigation warnings, arrange marking and removal at earliest opportunity, time dependant on severity / risk to navigation.</p>

PORT OF LONDON AUTHORITY

5.	Licensing of commercial Inland Waterways vessels	Undertake licensing inspections on schedule, without delays or without unnecessary disruption to commercial operations.
6.	Support for, approval and facilitation of River events	Associated risks to be at ALARP prior to approval. Avoid unnecessary restrictions on vessel movements and disruption to commercial services and leisure activities.
7.	Liaison and consultation with River Users	Routine meetings every 6 months in each District. Appropriate and open consultation undertaken with River Users and interested parties regarding proposed amendments to PLA Byelaws, Directions and Codes of Practice.

Change or Temporary Targets

	<u>Service Provision / Activity</u>	<u>Target</u>
1.	Olympics 2012	The delivery of a safe and secure set of Olympic related activities and events on the River.
2.	Queen's Diamond Jubilee	The delivery of a safe passage plan and safe execution to the Pageant Master.
3.	Infrastructure projects; in particular Crossrail and Tideway Tunnel	An enhanced safety regime, which enables the safe use of the River for the transport of project material with risks at ALARP.
4.	London Gateway Port	An agreed set of operational procedures that permits the establishment of operations at London Gateway Port, in particular the handling of ultra large container ships at ALARP.
5.	Thames Freight Vessel Standard	Develop and introduce (in conjunction with the Maritime & Coastguard Agency and vessel operators) a new, local technical and management standard for the operation of freight carrying vessels on the tidal Thames.

ANNEX – Strategic Navigational Policies: Navigational Safety
Enforcement & Prosecution