

PEEL PORTS LONDON MEDWAY

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NOTICE TO AGENTS, BERTH AND SHIP OPERATORS

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Use Of Inappropriate Or Weighted Heaving Lines

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the use of inappropriate or weighted heaving lines by Ships for all mooring and towing operations is strictly prohibited.

This activity places those persons on the deck of a tug, mooring boat or berth at an increased and unacceptable level of risk, which could result in serious injury or death, furthermore navigational implications could also be encountered if a Tug fails to make fast.

The UK Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seamen Chapter 25 (25.3.2) states: **“Vessels heaving lines should be constructed with a ‘Monkeys Fist’ at one end. To prevent personal injury the ‘Fist’ should be made only with rope and should NOT contain added weighting material”**.

Those persons who encounter weighted heaving lines have instructions to remove the hazard or replace with a sand bag.

All cases of inappropriate or weighted use of heaving lines will be investigated by Peel Ports London Medway. Vessels may be subject to an inspection at a rate published in the Port of Sheerness Ltd Schedule of Charges. In addition, reports will be submitted to the MCA and MAIB.

**Marine Operations Department
Peel Ports London Medway**

5th January 2022