

## **NOTICE TO AGENTS, SHIP AND BERTH OPERATORS**

### **Qualification of Tow Masters and Tug Crews**

When considering a towage provider, a Master or Agent should also consider the certification of the proposed tug as well as the qualifications held by the crew. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency set the minimum standards that need to be met.

Prior to the proposed towage operation, the Port Authority will need to be assured that the selected towing operator is sufficiently competent to conduct the operation. As a minimum the Master should hold a Certificate of Competency (CoC) to STCW standards with an MCA Towage Endorsement or approved equivalent. The crew should also have proof of training and familiarisation of the tug they are operating and the relevant towage techniques to be employed.

Failure to provide such proof will result in the tug not being approved to operate within the harbour limits and the towing operation not being authorised.

Further guidance can be found:

MCA Marine Guidance Note MGN 468 (M)  
British Tug Owners Association. [Training & Certification – British Tugowners Association](#)

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