

STANDING NOTICE TO MARINERS



SNtoM 006

Pilot Transfer Arrangements & Declaration

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that SOLAS Chapter V, Regulation 23, requires that all shipboard arrangements used for Pilot transfer shall efficiently fulfil their purpose of enabling Pilots to embark and disembark safely. The appliances shall be kept clean, properly maintained and stowed and shall be regularly inspected to ensure that they are safe to use.

The rigging of the ship's Pilot transfer arrangements and the embarkation of a Pilot shall be supervised by a responsible Officer having means of communication with the navigation bridge, who shall also arrange for the escort of the Pilot by a safe route to and from the navigation bridge. Personnel engaged in rigging and operating any mechanical equipment shall be instructed in the safe procedures to be adopted and the equipment shall be tested prior to use.

The Masters of all vessels seeking to embark a Pilot at the North East Spit, Tongue or Warp Pilot stations will be required to make or confirm acceptance of following declaration to London VTS on VHF Channel 69 prior to embarkation process:

'The Pilot ladder is properly maintained and has been rigged in accordance with SOLAS Regulations'

For vessels embarking a Pilot at the North East Spit or Tongue Pilot stations, the declaration should be made when passing the London Arrival Arc.

For vessels embarking a Pilot at the Warp Pilot Station the declaration should be made no later than when passing the Shivering Sand Towers or the North Oaze Buoy.

Vessels embarking a Pilot at the Sunk Pilot Station will be requested to make a similar declaration to the Sunk Pilot Station. Vessels embarking a Pilot at the North East Goodwin Pilot Station will be requested to make a similar declaration to the North East Spit Pilot Station.

Further Information relating to pilot ladder compliance can be found within Medway NASBO 12 of 2022 located on the Peel Ports website under Medway – Marine Information – NASBO.

In the event that defects or deficiencies are noted with respect to the vessels Pilot transfer arrangements, the matter will be reported to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency as a Port State Control deficiency. Additionally, the Pilot may decline to embark the vessel resulting in delays to the voyage.

Further information may be obtained from Medway VTS on VHF Channel 74 call sign "Medway VTS" or direct via telephone on 0151 649 6148 / 6650 (**Recorded Lines**).

**Marine Operations Department
Peel Ports London Medway**

Notice Issued:
Notice Expiry:

1st January 2026
N/A

Issued on behalf of Port of Sheerness Ltd, the Statutory Harbour Authority for the River Medway and The Swale
Telephone calls, VHF radio traffic, CCTV and radar traffic images may be recorded at
the Peel Ports Group Port Control Centre, Liverpool.