

NOTICE TO AGENTS, SHIP AND BERTH OPERATORS

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NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS COMPLIANCE REPORTING

General Directions for Navigation in the Medway Ports number 6 and in General Direction for Navigation in the Port of London number 13(3) requires that prior to a Reporting Vessel's arrival at the outer limits, their intention to navigate in the Port shall be reported to the Harbourmaster through the appropriate VTS Centre. The report shall include confirmation that the vessel 'complies with the navigational safety requirements of both PLA and Peel Ports Medway General Directions'. This report has traditionally been made upon the vessels arrival at the limits of the VTS area.

The report consists of a confirmation that:

- a) the vessel's charts for the voyage and associated navigational publications are corrected and up to date;
- b) the Master has prepared an appropriate Port Passage Plan for use during the vessel's passage in the Thames and Medway area;
- c) the vessel, if appropriate, is compliant with the requirements of the ISM Code;
- d) if the vessel is not subject to the ISM Code, that the vessel has no deficiencies or defects in respect of its manning, navigational equipment, propulsion or manoeuvring machinery;

With effect from 0001 on the 1st December 2015, the **VHF reporting** of a vessels compliancy with the navigational safety requirements of the General Directions will no longer be required.

The report shall instead be made as a component of the vessels advance notification to London VTS by means of PISCES or via the vessel notification form. For vessels proceeding to the **Medway Ports**, this report shall be made as a component of the advance vessel notification to **Medway VTS** who will relay the information to London VTS.

By obtaining this information in advance of a vessels arrival, the vessel will be aware of the requirements of the General Direction. Additionally, in the event of any doubt, there will be time to consider appropriate actions to resolve any problems thereby reducing the risk of vessels being delayed or refused entry into the port.



**Captain Ian Clark AFRIN AFNI
Manager Marine Operations**

2nd January 2018