



## **PEEL PORTS MEDWAY**

### **SAFETY PLAN FOR MARINE OPERATIONS 2017-2020**

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Peel Ports Medway (Port of Sheerness Ltd) is part of the Peel Ports Group. Port of Sheerness Ltd (POSL) is the Statutory and Competent harbour authority for the River Medway and its approaches from the Medway Buoy to Allington Lock (the tidal Medway), including the Swale, Queenborough Harbour, Milton, Conyer and Faversham Creeks. The ports within the Medway and Swale include the Port of Sheerness, Chatham Docks, Ridham Docks, the Isle of Grain and the Port of Rochester.

The Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC), published in March 2000 by Department of Transport, and revised in October 2009 & November 2016, has established an agreed national standard for port marine safety, and a measure by which harbour authorities can be held accountable for their legal powers and duties to run their harbours in a safe manner.

In compliance with the Code, Peel Ports Medway publishes the following Marine Safety Plan for the period April 2017 to April 2020.

#### 2. MARINE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

POSL commits to undertake and regulate marine operations so as to safeguard the Port, its users, the public and the environment; to run a safe, efficient, cost effective, sustainable port operation for the benefit of all users and the wider community; to fulfil its legal responsibilities whilst continuing to meet the changing needs of all harbour users; and to meet the national requirements of the PMSC. In demonstration of these commitments POSL has produced the following policies:

Port Marine Safety Code Group Policy  
Navigational Safety Policy  
Pilotage Policy  
VTS Policy  
Environment Policy  
Enforcement and Prosecution Policy  
Training Policy

All policies are included within Peel Ports Medway's Marine Safety Management System. The Group Policy and Navigational Safety Policy are published on Peel Ports Medway's Website at [www.medwayports.com](http://www.medwayports.com)

These policies are reviewed every three years.

### 3. MARINE SAFETY PLAN OBJECTIVES

In support of its marine policies and procedures, to meet the requirements of the PMSC, POSL has set out the following objectives:

- To keep its powers and duties under review in order to ensure that it can effectively regulate and conserve safe navigation within the Port and its approaches
- To maintain the marine Safety Management System (SMS) on the basis of a comprehensive risk assessment
- To periodically review identified hazards and associated risks to marine operations to ensure they remain valid and that the controls identified to mitigate against risks are appropriate and effective in reducing risks to as low as reasonably practicable
- To implement the monitoring, inspection and review requirements set out in the SMS
- To carry out annual audits of the SMS by the Designated Person, to monitor performance against the required standard
- To correct deficiencies or implement safety enhancements identified through the audit or review process within proposed timescales
- To maintain comprehensive training and continuing professional development of marine department personnel, in particular those with navigational safety responsibilities
- To maintain and exercise emergency plans and procedures, including Oil Spill response plans
- To provide aids to navigation, which meet the requirements of the General Lighthouse Authority, in order to enhance safety of navigation
- To monitor and maintain its aids to navigation to ensure their performance standards meet the target requirements set by the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities
- To undertake hydrographic surveys in line with an adequate, defined schedule and publish the results of those surveys in a timely manner
- To liaise and consult with river users, by all appropriate means, including a 6 monthly river users consultative forum
- To formally review its plans, policies and procedures and publish a Safety Plan for Marine Operations at intervals not exceeding three years
- To assess and report on its performance against the plan on an annual basis.