

NOTICE TO AGENTS, BERTH AND SHIP OPERATORS



Standing NASBO No: 01

Date of Issue: 5th January 2026

Re: Pilotage requirements for vessels shifting berth at Sheerness Docks

Incidents have occurred when vessels have been shifting short distances within Sheerness Docks. Investigation has revealed that on occasions, problems have occurred due to the lack of communication or common language between ship's crew and mooring operatives.

Following formal risk assessment by Peel Ports London Medway Pilot Management Committee and Navigational Advisory Panel, the Port of Sheerness gives notice that, as of the above date, Compulsory Pilotage requirements for all vessel shifts on Sheerness berths will be as follows –

1. When a vessel is shifting berth such that **all** the vessel's mooring lines are let go from the shore – Pilotage is compulsory for all vessels.
2. When a vessel is shifting berth such that **all** of the vessel's mooring lines remain connected to the shore - Pilotage is not compulsory.
3. When a vessel is shifting berth such that **any** of the vessel's mooring lines are let go or shifted - Pilotage is compulsory for all vessels of 90 m LOA and above.

Compulsory pilotage means that the vessel is under the conduct of either an Authorised Medway Pilot or a current holder of a Medway Pilotage Exemption certificate (PEC).

Pilots should be booked and confirmed through the usual process for obtaining the services of a Medway Pilot and the vessel booking should be amended to reflect the intended movement of the ship..

All compulsory pilotage requirements specified in the Medway Ports Pilotage Directions remain unchanged

**Marine Operations Department
Peel Ports London Medway**

Notice Issued:
Notice Expiry:

5th January 2026
N/A