

# NOTICE TO AGENTS, BERTH AND SHIP OPERATORS



## Standing NASBO No: 01

**Date of Issue: 5<sup>th</sup> 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:

5<sup>th</sup> 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.