

SNtoM 007

Peel Ports London Medway Management of NAABSA berths.

Notice is hereby given that all ship's masters, berth/terminal operators and ship's agents should be aware that Peel Ports Group has reviewed it's procedures relating to the management of NAABSA (Not Always Afloat But Safely Aground) berths and vessels visiting those berths. Responsibilities and compliance requirements placed on relevant stakeholders are set out below:

Definitions:

NAABSA - Not Always Afloat But Safely Aground

SHA – Statutory Harbour Authority

Requirements

The Berth

Prior to considering NAABSA operations the following must be in place:

- The berth has been declared NAABSA by the berth/terminal operator
- The berth has been recognised as NAABSA by the harbour authority

The decision as to whether it is safe for a vessel to lay on a NAABSA berth is the responsibility of the vessel's Master. To assist with the decision the following criteria should be met :

- The Berth operator should keep a vigilant watch of the vessel grounding and tidal actions whilst alongside. Any unusual or unexpected event should be reported to the SHA immediately.
- Vessels should be close to even keel when taking the ground on NAABSA berths. The Master should keep records of grounding times and the vessels condition at the time of grounding.
- When the tide is flooding, the Master must ensure that moorings are rigorously tended when the vessel is about to re-float.
- Masters shall be aware that vessels do not always re-float at the time expected due to the nature of NAABSA berths, and the crew should be suitably aware of this.
- The Master shall advise the Operations staff working on the vessel when the vessel is likely to re-float or if the vessel has not re-floated at the expected height of tide when a vessel could significantly rise in the water.

Vessel booking

Prior to arrival the Agent must ensure that;

- Vessels intending to operate as NAABSA at designated NAABSA berths are declared suitable and annotated as such on the vessel booking (visit notes).
- The vessel can provide alternative firefighting arrangements at the berth.
- The vessel uses the appropriate intakes, such as cooling water so as not to compromise the mechanical performance of the vessel with the intake of siltation and other such matter.
- The vessel can provide Safe Access (via a gangway) at all times and states of tide when alongside discharging/loading. Vertical quayside MOB ladders are not to be used for access.
- The vessel Master has been provided with the latest survey and, where applicable, photographs of the berth bed.
- The vessel Master has been provided with a description of the nature of the seabed at the berth, any obstructions on the seabed at the berth, the load or discharge rate, bollard strength and tug availability if necessary.

Inspection & Survey

Regular Inspections should be carried out by the berth operator to ensure the berth is kept clear from obstructions.

The safety of the berth for taking specific vessels should be assessed and recorded. Any factor that may affect the baseline safety assessment should be reported to the SHA immediately and advise on the method and timescale to rectify. Bookings should not be accepted for the berth until advised otherwise. In this case the SHA must notify the Group Port Control Planning Department to ensure they are aware not to accept bookings on that berth.

Berths are subject to survey to determine depths, profile and debris; the extent and frequency of surveys are to be determined by a suitable assessment of risk (NAABSA Assessment);

The NAABSA assessment will be declared to the SHA including protocols for reporting, incident management and maintaining quayside watch. The berth operator should have adequate emergency procedures in place which should also be declared to the SHA.

Any objects that drops or falls onto the berth bed should be reported to the SHA and the berth operator. An impact assessment should then be conducted and the item(s) recovered prior to use of the berth if it is deemed a necessary / safety requirement.

Further information may be obtained from the marine operations department on 01795 596596 or by e-mailing AllMedwayMarineManagers@peelports.com

Marine Operations Department Peel Ports London Medway

Notice Issued:
Notice Expiry:

1st January 2026
N/A