

PORT
of
TYNE

PORT OF TYNE GENERAL DIRECTIONS FOR NAVIGATION

June 2017



PORT OF TYNE AUTHORITY

GENERAL DIRECTIONS FOR NAVIGATION IN THE PORT OF TYNE

The Port of Tyne in exercise of their powers under the Port of Tyne Act 1989 gives the following General Directions to vessels in the Port of Tyne and the Seaward Approaches.

SECTION 1 – CARRIAGE OF VHF/RT EQUIPMENT

All vessels 20m or more in length shall carry fixed or portable VHF/RT equipment capable of communication with the Authority's VTS Centre at North Shields hereafter referred to by its call sign "Tyne VTS".

All vessels to which this section applies shall maintain a listening watch on the bridge when under way or at anchor within the Port or the Seaward Approaches on a frequency of 156.6 MHz (Channel 12) or on such other frequency as the Authority's Harbour Master may direct.

Communications between vessels and attending tugs shall be carried out on such other channel as may be specified by the Harbour Master.

Every vessel 20m or more in length not carrying VHF/RT equipment shall not be permitted to navigate in the Port or Seaward Approaches except by a Special Direction of the Harbour Master in accordance with Section 8 of the Port of Tyne Act 1989.

SECTION 2 – REPORTING OF INWARD BOUND VESSELS

This section applies at all times to every vessel of 20m or more in length which intends to enter and navigate within the Port.

The Master shall:

- at least 24 hours prior to arrival or on leaving the last Port, whichever is later, give notice to the Harbour Master of the vessels estimated time of arrival in Port and
- on coming within VHF/RT range of Tyne VTS or 2 hours prior, whichever is soonest, give the vessels time of arrival and
- report to the Harbour Master when passing or at the following way points:
 - North Pier Lighthouse
 - Whitehill Point, North Shields
 - Bill Quay, Walker
 - Tyne Bridge, Newcastle
 - and when the vessel has berthed alongside, moored or anchored

SECTION 3 – REPORTING OF OUTWARD OR MOVING VESSELS

This section applies at all times to every vessel of 20m or more in length berthed, moored, dry docked or anchored in the Port. Vessels of less than 20m LOA that are carrying a VHF are requested to report to Tyne VTS as per this section.

The Master shall:

- give the Harbour Master notice of not less than 6 hours of the time the vessel proposes to

start navigating or moving within the Port and again advise the Harbour Master 2 hours prior to the commencement of navigation or move.

- report to the Harbour Master when the movement commences and when passing, or at, the reporting points specified in Section 2, and when the movement is completed.

SECTION 4

The Master of every vessel of 50m or more in length when giving notice required in accordance with Section 2 and 3 shall in addition advise the Harbour Master of the vessels draft, pilotage requirements or details of the Pilotage Exemption Certificate to be used.

SECTION 5 – AUTOMATIC STEERING

The Master of every vessel under way in the Port shall ensure that the vessel is under the direct manual control of a competent helmsman other than the Master or Pilot and that the vessel is not steered by any device or equipment designed to function in place of the helmsman.

SECTION 6 – ADJUSTING COMPASSES

The Master of every vessel shall whenever possible give at least 24 hours notice of the intention to adjust compasses of the vessel and to confirm the intention to adjust compasses immediately prior to commencing the operation.

SECTION 7 – VESSELS WITH MECHANICAL OR EQUIPMENT DEFECTS

Every vessel 20m or more in length or any vessel being towed intending to enter, leave or move within the Port shall report to Tyne VTS any of the following conditions:

- unseaworthiness in any respect
- defective main engine or any other auxiliary machinery including thrusters which may affect the manoeuvrability of the vessel
- inoperable equipment

Such vessels shall not navigate within the Port except with the permission of the Harbour Master and in accordance with any instructions he may give.

SECTION 8 – TOWING INWARDS OR OUTWARDS

The Master of every vessel when entering, leaving or moving within the Port or Seaward Approaches under tow or in the case of an unmanned vessel, the Master of the towing vessel shall:

- give notice and details of the tow to the Harbour Master and whether the tow involves a 'dead ship', 'abnormal tow', a 'disabled tow' and whether the tow is manned
- in the case of an unmanned tow provide sufficient personnel to be placed on the tow prior to entering or leaving the Port as may be required by the Harbour Master
- shorten the tow to no more than 33m when westwards of the Herd Groyne lighthouse at South Shields except with the permission of the Harbour Master
- give notice to the Harbour Master prior to entry or if the towing vessel is unable to comply with the above

SECTION 9 – FISHING VESSELS

Fishing vessels under 50m in length are relieved of the obligations under Section 2 and Section 3 but must however report to the Harbour Master when:

- about to enter the Port advising the intended berth and when passing any of the reporting points specified in Section 2
- about to move from the berth and when passing any of the reporting points specified in Section 2

Fishing vessels when under way in the Port or approaches to the Port must keep a listening watch on Channel 12 and inform Tyne VTS when:

- towing or hampered in any way
- in the approaches to the Port with mines, bombs or other dangerous items on board

SECTION 10 – PENALTIES

Failure to comply with a direction constitutes an offence and renders the person liable to a fine not exceeding Level 4 on the standard scale. However it is a defence to prove that he had reasonable grounds for supposing that compliance with it would be likely to imperil the vessel or that in the circumstances compliance was impracticable.

SECTION 11 – INTERPRETATION

The words and expressions used in these General Directions shall have the same meaning as in the Port of Tyne Reorganisation Scheme 1967 and Port of Tyne General Byelaws 1987.

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