

PORT OF LONDON AUTHORITY

**FEEDBACK ON THE INFORMAL PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON PLA
ENFORCEMENT & PROSECUTION POLICY**
October- November 2014

	SECTION	Consultee/Organisation	Summary of Feedback
1.	CHRISTOPHER PAUL CLARKE	Pilot, Port of London Authority	<p>Yesterday I piloted the mt 'Baltic Faith' from the Sunk to Grays No 1. West Thurrock. She had on board 22,000 tonnes of ULSD fuel from Primorsk. The Captain and crew were Russian and the ship was registered in Limassol. I boarded at 0300 and half way down the Black Deep, the Chief Officer who was on watch with me asked me if I would mind if he could have a smoke. I told him to go ahead, no problem for me. He said the ship had received a message from the agent to the effect that no one could smoke on the Bridge. The bridge was enclosed type and positively pressured. Smoking rules would be determined by the Master's and Company Standing Orders. Rightly or wrongly this is a fact and whilst I do not smoke and never have done so, there are plenty of people who still do and the ships agent has absolutely no right to dictate to crews on ships where and whether the ship's crew can smoke. As a pilot it is my interest to keep the Bridge Team happy, alert and efficient and if that means the mate having the odd non-tipped player's, so be it.</p> <p>Thank you – your comments are noted.</p>
2.	JOHN SPENCER	GPS Marine Services	<p>The Enforcement and Prosecution policy mentions "surveillance and spot checks". It is unclear precisely what will be subject to these measures, but it is to be hoped that the crews of vessels navigating on the Thames will be subject to spot drug and alcohol tests. In our view one of the biggest risks to the safety of navigation (perhaps especially iro vessels engaged in intra port trades) is caused by drug and alcohol abuse. The ONLY sure way to be certain of reducing this risk is for there to be a rigorous and effective system of random spot checks and a zero tolerance enforcement regime that prosecutes in ALL cases where drug and alcohol thresholds are breached by crew members actively engaged in the navigation and operation of vessels on the Thames.</p> <p>Whilst the PLA has some sympathy with your views, unfortunately, we do not have the power to require mandatory drug and alcohol testing of ships' crews. This has to be a matter for the owner/employer and the supporting policies and management systems they have in place for their vessel(s).</p>

No Comments: Nil