

NOTICE TO AGENTS, BERTH AND SHIP OPERATORS No.5 of 2014

PILOTS – REQUIREMENT FOR SAFE ACCESS TO VESSELS

All Masters are reminded of their statutory obligations, (Regulation 4 of The Merchant Shipping (Means of Access) Regulations 1988) to provide safe access and egress from their vessels, whilst alongside at all times. Failure to provide safe access to the vessel could result in the Master being fined up to £1000 for contravening the Regulation. Additional costs may also be incurred by a vessel, as pilots may need to be boarded or landed by boat if an appropriate and safe regulation gangway/ accommodation ladder is not provided.

Furthermore, Masters are reminded that if the pilot ladder boarding/landing arrangements do not comply with the appropriate safety standards, as promulgated at SOLAS Chapter V, regulation 23 and IMO Resolution A.1045(27) and in the PLA Publication 'Code of Practice for the Embarkation and Disembarkation of Pilots in the Thames Estuary 2013' or subsequent editions, the pilot may refuse to board the vessel. This could result in a defect report being sent to the MCA (Maritime and Coastguard Agency), and a delay to the vessel until the defect is rectified.

10 April 2014

Port of London Authority
London River House, Royal Pier Road,
Gravesend, Kent DA12 2BG

DAVID PHILLIPS
CHIEF HARBOUR MASTER



ISO9001 • ISO14001
OHSAS 18001

EXPIRY DATE: N/A
TO RECEIVE FUTURE NOTICES TO MARINERS BY **E-MAIL**,
PLEASE REGISTER VIA OUR WEBSITE www.pla.co.uk
Telephone calls, VHF radio traffic, CCTV and radar traffic images may be recorded in the VTS Centres at Gravesend and Woolwich.



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