

NOTICE TO AGENTS, BERTH AND SHIP OPERATORS No.5 of 2016

TUG ASSESSMENT VALIDITY

In accordance with the Code of Practice for Ship Towing Operations on the Thames 2015, if a Berth Owner/Operator is in agreement, a vessel owner/operator whose vessel has good manoeuvring capabilities and characteristics, and which regularly visits the Thames, may apply to the Harbour Master to have the vessel assessed to reduce the number of tugs allocated to it under reasonable weather and tidal conditions.

The following Berth Owners/Operators currently allow Tug Assessments for ships calling at their facilities:

Calor	Northfleet Thames Terminal
London Gateway Port	Tower Wharf
Tilbury Ro-Ro	Bevans 42
Tilbury Lock	
Northfleet Hope Container Terminal	
Tilbury Grain Terminal	

Once completed tug assessments are valid for up to five years, but no longer than three years from the vessel's last visit to the port.

Any vessel wishing to berth at any of the above facilities whose tug assessment is no longer valid will be required to undertake a re-assessment which may or may not require the presence of a tug or tugs as per the Tug Allocation Tables. The decision to carry out either a full or 'virtual' tug assessment will be made by the District Harbour Master.

New applications for a reduced tug allocation assessment must be made in writing, by email to the Lower District Harbour Master (LowerDistrictEnquiry@pla.co.uk) who, subject to agreement of the Berth Owner/Operator, will arrange for the nominated vessel to be assessed - generally on its next visit.

Applications must be submitted in good time to enable the necessary preparatory work to be undertaken.

29 July 2016

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

**BOB BAKER
CHIEF HARBOUR MASTER**



Owners, Agents and Charterers should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.

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.

