

NOTICE TO AGENTS, BERTH AND SHIP OPERATORS No.4 of 2011

ILLEGAL AND DANGEROUS USE OF WEIGHTED HEAVING LINES BY SHIP'S CREW IN MOORING AND UNMOORING OPERATIONS

Ships' agents are requested to bring to the attention of ships masters of vessels visiting the Port of London that use of weighted heaving lines is **illegal and dangerous** practice, which can cause a serious injury or even death, should the weight hit someone ashore.

You should draw their attention to UK's Code of Safe Practices for Merchant Seamen, Chapter 25, Paragraph 25.3.2, which states that 'Vessel's heaving lines should be constructed with "monkey's fist" at one end. To prevent personal injury, the "fist" should be made only with rope and should **not** contain added weighting material'.

This requirement is also re-enforced in the Port of London Authority's "Code of Practice for the Safe Mooring of Vessels on the Thames 2010", on pages 17/18 Section Three - Guidance to Pilots & Ship's Masters, 3.2: 'Ship's crew should be instructed **not** to use weighted heaving lines'.

Shore mooring teams in the Port of London have instructions to cut off weighted "monkeys fist" and added or replacement weights from heaving lines, if used.

The weighted "fist" or added weight will be retained as evidence in the event of legal action being taken against the vessel and the user.

The pictures overleaf show examples of some of the weights used on heaving lines.

17 March 2011

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

**DAVID SNELSON CB FNI
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.

NOTICE EXPIRY DATE: N/A

YOU CAN REGISTER TO RECEIVE NOTICES BY **E-MAIL** VIA THE PLA WEBSITE **www.pla.co.uk**

Telephone calls, VHF radio traffic, CCTV and radar images may be recorded
In the VTS Centres at Gravesend and Woolwich.



PORT OF LONDON
AUTHORITY

5 of 2011 Chartlet

