

NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

INFORMATION NOTE No. 4

Navigational Advisory Panels

Introduction

The Port Marine Safety Code requires port authorities to liaise with and involve local practitioners, port users and other interested parties in the management of marine operations and navigational safety in the port, i.e. the development and maintenance of the port's navigational Safety Management System (SMS).

Navigational Advisory Panels

In London, we have established the concept of a Navigational Advisory Panel (NAP) to fulfil part of this requirement. NAPs are ad-hoc groups convened usually, but not exclusively, by the District Harbour Master to consider a particular issue or incident within the SMS.

The Harbour Master will normally request the involvement of a range of practitioners, river users and specialists, relevant to the matter to be considered. The Panel may meet only once, or more times as may be required to meet its Terms of Reference.

NAP Terms of Reference will be set by the PLA's Navigational Management Team (NMT) and each NAP will be asked to submit its recommendation to the NMT for consideration by the PLA.

NAPs have been held to consider a wide range of issues including:

- Post incident investigation
- Un-scheduled review of navigational hazards
- Development of codes of practice or operational guidance
- Other specific matters such as the review of the impact of navigational safety of a new trade or issues surrounding navigation in a particular area, such as through bridges or the transit of large vessels through the Thames Barrier.