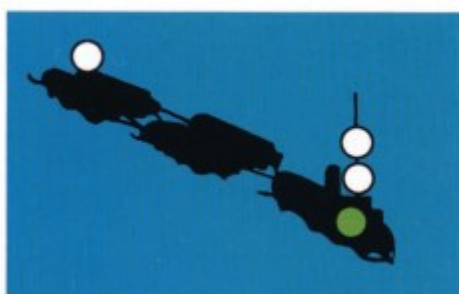


## SAFETY BULLETIN No.7 of 2020

### LIGHTS ON BARGES BEING PUSHED OR TOWED

The Port of London Authority (PLA) has received several near miss reports of vessels, in particular tugs pushing barges not displaying the correct navigation lights. This is concerning with daylight hours being reduced in the winter months. Therefore, the PLA reminds Masters of the tugs and barges of the requirements of Thames Byelaw 35 and the need to display correct lighting when engaged in towing/pushing operations.

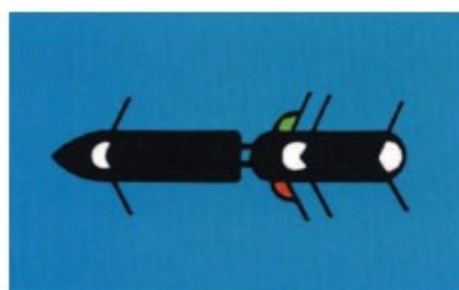
#### TOWING/PUSHING BARGES - LIGHTS



Tug towing four lighters

##### Byelaw 35.1

Barges being towed shall show a white all-round light at the stern of the aftermost or in the stern of the aftermost barge which ever is the longer. If towed alongside the light shall be carried on the stern of the barge on the side furthest away from the towing vessel



Tug pushing another vessel

##### Byelaw 35.2

A barge being pushed ahead or if more than one then the foremost barge shall carry a white masthead light forward not less than 1 metre above the hull. The pushing vessel shall carry side and stern lights and a white masthead light which is higher than the white masthead light on the vessel being pushed (i.e. craft and pushing vessel appear to be lighted as one vessel over 50 metres in length).

Tugs with pushing barges are required to display a chase light on the bow of the pushed object.

Likewise, all Mariners are reminded to display suitable navigation lights, for smaller craft detail guidance can be found in [‘The Tideway Code – A Code of Practice for Rowing and Paddling on the Tidal Thames’](#).

2 December 2020

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

Paul Lorimer  
Assistant Harbour Master



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

