

Updated General Directions for Navigation in the Port of London

NOTICE TO MARINERS

Updated General Directions for Navigation in the Port of London

The Port of London Authority (PLA) wishes to inform all mariners that updated General Directions for Navigation in the Port of London will come into force on **1st September 2025**, amending the General Directions issued 1st November 2024.

The revised General Directions have been developed in consultation with stakeholders and are constructed to enhance navigational safety and improve operational efficiency within the Port of London.

The revised [General Directions](#) are available on the PLA website. Mariners are strongly encouraged to read the revised General Directions in full.

The PLA General Directions are freely available on our website for viewing on any device with an internet browser and for PDF download/printing. Additionally, copies are available for inspection by prearranged appointment, without charge, at the following address:

London River House

Royal Pier Road

Gravesend, Kent

DA12 2BG

Printed copies may be purchased from the PLA by writing to Marine Compliance at the above address.

The Port of London Authority would like to take this opportunity to thank all participants who contributed to the consultation process. Your feedback has been invaluable in shaping these important updates and a [Consultation Statement](#) has been provided on the PLA's website in response to the public consultation.

Changes

The following changes have been made.

Telephone calls, VHF radio traffic, CCTV and radar traffic images may be recorded in the VTS Centre



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General Direction	Section	Amendment Details
3	3.18	"Dartford Bridge Safety Zone" defined to aid GD 17
	3.19	"Deadweight Tonnage" defined to aid GD 17
	3.22	"Emergency Vessels" defined to aid GD 36
	3.31	Correction of double "The"
	3.42	Updated PMSC definition to reflect new code
4	4.3	Spelling correction of the word "Commercial". Passage plans must receive a "significant change" to be re-assessed by the Harbourmaster.
5	5.2	Removed.
	5.5	(Now 5.4) New subsection added to account for "autonomous, semi-autonomous or remotely operated vessel[s]"
17	17.1 (f)	"exemption of" removed for clarity - no effect to the meaning
	17.2	Requirements for permission of London VTS and agreement of both vessels added
	17.4 (b)	Amended to end "with the agreement of both Vessels"
	17.5	Exception for Recreational Vessels to cross Black Deep without contacting VTS for permission
	17.7	Speed restrictions for "Dartford Bridge Safety Zone" introduced for specific vessels/vessel condition.
28	28.1	Addition of " <i>not less than 24 hours</i> "
	28.2	Spelling of "draft" corrected to "draught"
	28.2 (a)	Addition of " <i>not less than 12 hours notice</i> "

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P6-25

Cathryn Spain, Senior Harbour Master
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General Direction	Section	Amendment Details
28.4	New restriction for vessels visiting the Upper Pool. The previous (28.4) now becomes (28.5)	
28.5	Removal of word "escort" to prevent confusion with "Escort Tug"	
36	36.1-36.2	New GD added introducing restrictions on display and use of blue flashing lights on vessels

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