

Peterhead Port Authority Remote Pilotage 30.03.2020

Remote Pilotage Procedure (Covid-19)

Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Peterhead Port Authority is enhancing social distancing and limiting the movement of staff wherever possible. To achieve this the port will be introducing remote pilotage. Remote pilotage will not cover all vessels and will have to be agreed by the master of the vessel; this will also depend on weather conditions and the berth allocated to the vessel. Vessels requiring pilots will include but are not limited to tankers, vessels under tow, vessels requiring a slack water entry and large vessels bound for Merchant's Quay. Vessel agents and operators should ensure that the pilots are forwarded contact details of the vessels requiring a pilot. Relevant information can be sent by email to pilot@peterheadport.co.uk and cc tower@peterheadport.co.uk This is to allow arrangements to be made between pilot and master during their vessel's port call, thus avoiding delays.

Decisions will be taken on a case by case basis between harbour master, pilots and the master of the vessel. Where possible the preferred option will be for the pilot not to board provided this can be done safely. Operators must bear in mind that the safety of the vessel may be increased by utilising certain berths, or waiting for improved weather conditions.

As per the email circular sent on 18th March, all masters are advised to complete the Aberdeenshire Council Maritime Declaration of Health before entering Peterhead Port. For any vessel with a suspected case of Covid-19, it is mandatory for the master to complete the Aberdeenshire Council Maritime Declaration of Health and send the completed form to Aberdeenshire Council – porthealth@aberdeenshire.gov.uk – and cc tower@peterheadport.co.uk

Pilots will not board any vessel with suspected cases of Covid-19.

Definition of remote pilotage – Pilot will remain on the pilot boat in a suitable position. The pilot will give instructions to the master on VHF channel 9. The vessel should continue to monitor VHF channel 14 for VTS information.

Instructions to vessels when pilots are boarding. The crew at the pilot boarding area should maintain at least two metres separation as the pilot boards. If it is necessary for the pilot to be accompanied to the bridge the crew member should lead and the pilot follow by an agreed route to the bridge. On regular vessels whereby the pilot is familiar with the vessel they may not require a crew member to assist them to the bridge. Vessels may be required to enter the bay for the pilot to board depending on the type of vessel and the weather conditions.

There should be a maximum of three persons on the bridge; on some vessels two may be appropriate. While the pilot is on board the bridge crew will not be changed (no change of watches). The two-metre separation should be maintained at all times.

The two documents 1.) The Pilotage Passage & Manoeuvring Plan, Pre Masters Exchange (PMX) and 2.) Pilotage Note will be scanned and sent to the vessel for the master to check, sign and return by email. Masters requiring MPX or other documents to be signed please include this in the email. These instructions will apply even if the pilot is boarding.

Your understanding and co-operation are much appreciated, thank you.

J.P. Forman

Harbour Master