

Port Of Liverpool Pilotage Directions Consultation Response

The Mersey Docks and Harbour Company (MDHC) has conducted a consultation into the Port of Liverpool Pilotage Directions 2008. Notice of the consultation was promulgated in the Port of Liverpool Notice to Mariners No4 2008 on the 19th May 2008 and the draft document was published on the Port of Liverpool website.

MDHC received five replies to the consultation and below are the issues raised and MDHC's response to these issues.

1. In direction 3 (b) (v) MDHC have clarified the requirement in respect of a vessel of more than 50 gross tonnes, where the Master or First Mate has not previously navigated that vessel or a vessel of a similar class to that vessel within the Port that period shall now be "within the previous 12 months".
2. MDHC omitted the requirement from the previous edition of directions for 4 trips (2 in and 2 out) for the renewal of a PEC. This was a mistake and has been re-inserted to direction 4 (c).
3. There were two responses in respect to the age limit for a PEC. In line with the requirements for Liverpool Pilots direction 4 (c) has been amended such that a PEC will cease to be valid when a holder reaching the age of 65 years. There are no exemptions to this requirement.
4. In direction 4 (d) (i) the word "member" has been deleted and replaced by "Master".
5. There is change in direction 4 (e) to the mark that denotes the boundary of Area A and Area B where C10 is now a Buoy and not a Boat Beacon
6. Direction 4 (a) (iv) lays down the trip requirements for the award of a PEC. It states that "at least one trip shall be in darkness" and this is felt sufficient to ensure that adequate trips are in darkness.

7. MDHC agree to include in direction 5 (a) (ii) the requirement for “large vessels on certain trades” to use Lynas in line with the Port of Liverpool Formal Safety Assessment.
8. The change to the exemption from compulsory pilotage for vessels carrying passengers has been sort in consultation with the MCA. It was decided that MDHC could no longer operate a case by case basis for exemption from compulsory pilotage for passenger vessels and that all should be treated equally. Therefore following a review of the Port of Liverpool Formal Safety Assessment all vessels carrying more than 12 fare paying passengers shall be subject to compulsory pilotage.
9. In light of the insertion of the new Areas direction 4 (a) (iv) and direction 4 (c) have been amended such that the qualifying trips are for the area that the certificate relates.
10. Qualifying trips can be in the presence of a Liverpool Pilot or in the presence of a PEC holder for that vessel.
11. The sub areas have been introduced due the increased degree of competence required in those particular areas. They can be added to a certificate through a check trip and retained through 4 trips (2 in and 2 out).
12. Only one person can pilot the vessel at any one time and therefore trip sharing is not permitted.

Harbour Master

The Mersey Docks and Harbour Company
Maritime Centre
Liverpool

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