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# NOTICE TO MARINERS

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No. H. 02/2017

## RIVER HUMBER

### PILOT SAFETY ISSUES - ADVICE FOR MASTERS

#### PROTECTION OF ABP PILOTS FROM PASSIVE SMOKING

**MARINERS ARE ADVISED** that, although changes to UK legislation do not include ships in relation to smoke free environments, Associated British Ports (ABP) has a duty of care to its employees with regard to passive smoking whilst they are performing their duties.

It is therefore respectfully requested that Masters, Owners, Operators and Agents of vessels employing the services of an ABP Humber Pilot provide a smoke free working area in those internal and enclosed parts of the vessel in which the pilot is required to work.

It is accepted in return that any ABP pilot wishing to smoke whilst on board the vessel would do so only in designated areas and with the permission of the Master.

Your co-operation on this matter is appreciated.

#### BOARDING AND LANDING OF PILOTS

**MARINERS ARE ADVISED** that following an accident when both side ropes of a pilot ladder parted simultaneously with the pilot on the ladder an additional safety control measure is in operation.

Masters of all vessels taking a pilot will be **REQUIRED** to participate in this additional control. The master must ensure that the pilot ladder, or combination arrangement when the climb is greater than 9 metres, is properly constructed, recently inspected, in good condition and rigged as per SOLAS Regulation V/23 and IMO Resolution A.1045(27) "Required boarding arrangements for pilot". The master will be asked to give verbal confirmation of this to VTS Humber in advance of the pilot transfer taking place, both inbound and outbound.

Rigging of pilot ladders to handrails which are not constructed and/or certified for this purpose is not permitted.

In the event that this control measure is not complied with or the pilot detects that the ladder is not fit for purpose, the transfer will not take place and the vessel may be directed to a safe anchorage.

In addition all vessels, particularly those with significant climbs (in excess of 3m) must have available, for immediate use, a heaving line to assist with transfer of a Pilots bag if required. The guidance relating to the use of heaving lines in this notice should be adhered to.

## **PROVIDING SAFE ACCESS ALONGSIDE**

Masters are reminded of the requirement to provide safe access alongside at all times, including a properly rigged gangway where required. This includes access and egress for pilots who may be the first to disembark on arrival and last to board on departure. Failure to provide safe access will result in a pilot being unable to board and may lead to a cancelled departure.

## **ANIMALS ON BOARD VESSELS**

Vessels should declare the presence of an animal on board, prior to arrival, where they may present a hazard to shipboard movement. The animal should be duly controlled and its presence clearly signposted on the gangway.

## **SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE – 5 POINT PPE**

Masters are reminded that ABP has a mandatory requirement in our Ports for 5 Point PPE for its employees. Masters are requested that their Crew use 5 Point PPE when in our Ports. This includes safety helmet, high visibility jacket/vest, safety footwear and additionally eye protection and hand protection.

## **USE OF HEAVING LINES**

Masters are reminded that, when working with tugs, or during mooring operations, the ends of heaving lines must not contain metal or other weights. The monkey's fist must be made up in accordance with the "Code of Safe Working Practice for Merchant Seamen". To prevent personal injury the fist should be made only with rope and should not contain added weighting material. Crew should also ensure that the receiving party is aware that the line is about to be thrown.

**CAPT. A. FIRMAN  
HARBOUR MASTER, HUMBER**

04 January 2017

**THE INTERNET**

In order to widen communication between ABP Humber Estuary Services and those with an interest in the estuary, you are invited to visit our website which carries a wide range of information, including current live weather and Buoy positions, charts, tidal information and copies of this and other Notice to Mariners.

[www.humber.com](http://www.humber.com)