

POLICY STATEMENT FOR THE SAFETY OF NAVIGATION

As the Statutory Harbour Authority for the port of Tees and Hartlepool (“the Port”), PD Teesport Limited (“PDT”) is vested with powers to regulate, maintain and improve the Harbour and the navigation of vessels within its jurisdiction. Its powers are predominantly derived under the **Tees and Hartlepoons Port Authority Act 1966** (The Teesport Acts and Orders 1966 to 2008)

PDT recognises that it must treat its duties to ensure the safety of all activities within its jurisdiction and to serve the public interest as primary; it is accountable for what it does and what it fails to do in this regard; and it must adopt measures to ensure that it discharges its responsibilities in accordance with nationally agreed standards and in compliance with law.

PDT is entrusted with statutory powers to conserve and facilitate the safe use of the river, environs, and the community. PDT’s primary objective is to make the Port effective, efficient and safe, which benefits all customers, users and people within the area.

PDT is fully committed to fulfilling the requirements of the Port Marine Safety Code and The management of navigation shall be in accordance with those standards

PDT recognises that their statutory powers are subject to ‘Open Port Duty’, as referenced to in section 33 of the Harbour, Docks and Piers Clauses Act 1847.

PDT shall:

1. Maintain an effective Marine Safety Management System (“MSMS”) based on a formalised risk assessment process. Risks will be judged against criteria to ensure they are kept “as low as reasonably practicable” (“ALARP”). The MSMS will be kept under continuous review.
2. Publish a Marine Safety Plan (“MSP”) every 3 years and report performance against the plan annually.
3. Review regularly the effectiveness of and, if necessary, seek amendments to its legal powers, Byelaws and Directions in respect of navigational safety.
4. Ensure provision of the required level of Pilotage Services, as required by the Pilotage Act 1987.
5. Ensure the provision of appropriate formal procedures for assessing the suitability for Pilotage Exemption Certificate applicants. The standards and procedures will be published and available to applicants.
6. Ensure that Pilotage Directions define the circumstances in which pilotage is to be compulsory, how and to which vessels they apply and in what circumstances.
7. Consult with Port Users and other relevant Stakeholders on navigational safety issues and proposed changes to Procedures, Guidelines, Byelaws and Directions.
8. Within Port limits and approaches, monitor and manage vessel traffic through the provision of a 24 hour Vessel Traffic Service (“TEES VTS”). Operate TEES VTS to IMO, IALA and national standards to manage the safety and efficiency of navigation.
9. Regularly review the performance of the TEES VTS System and seek improvements through technical enhancement, development, and the training of staff with effective management.

10. Maintain standards for training and certification of TEES VTS personnel in line with International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities ("IALA") Recommendation R0103 'Training and certification of VTS personnel'.
11. Record all relevant VTS information to assist with incident investigation, enforcement and training
12. Maintain comprehensive records of all 'VTS Controlled' vessel movements within the Port and comply with all responsibilities with regards to the Consolidated European Reporting System ("CERS") Workbook, associated legislation and mandatory reporting to the Maritime Coastguard Agency ("MCA").
13. Conduct appropriate hydrographic surveys through a managed schedule to international Hydrographic Organisation ("IHO") Standards, to ensure safe and efficient navigational within the area of the port's jurisdiction.
14. Ensure that personnel conducting hydrographic surveys are appropriately trained, qualified and experienced.
15. Ensure that accurate hydrographic data is promulgated and made available to the UK Hydrographic Office ("UKHO").
16. Provide the necessary aids to navigation within Port limits, to include navigation buoys, daymarks, traffic lights and lighthouses. Such aids to be maintained and operated in accordance with the requirements of Trinity House.
17. Publish required navigational, tidal, hydrographic and other relevant information to Port Users/Stakeholders.
18. Prepare and regularly exercise emergency response plans in conjunction with relevant authorities to ensure effective management of marine related incident within its area of jurisdiction. Appropriate training to be provided where required.
19. Ensure, through an appropriate level of risk assessment that the approval of river activities and river works takes due regards of the safety of navigation
20. Ensure, through a compliance and inspection procedure that the fitness of purpose of workboats operating within the area it jurisdiction is confirmed.

This policy will be reviewed again within the next 3 years.


Signed 
Duty Holder, Port of Tees and Hartlepool

Date 12/2/2024.

Signed 

Date: 12th February 2024

Designated Person, Port of Tees and Hartlepool

Signed 

Date: 30th January 2024

Harbour Master, Port of Tees and Hartlepool