

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**.

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 a public duty and 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 part of this commitment is to publicise a Policy Statement for the Safety of Navigation.

PDT shall:

1. Maintain an effective Marine Safety Management System (“SMS”) 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 SMS will be kept under continuous review.
2. Review regularly the effectiveness of and, if necessary, seek amendments to its legal powers, Byelaws and Directions in respect of navigational safety.
3. Ensure provision of the required level of Pilotage Services, as required by the Pilotage Act 1987.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Consult with Port Users and other relevant Stakeholders on navigational safety issues and proposed changes to Procedures, Guidelines, Byelaws and Directions.
7. Within Port limits and approaches, monitor and manage vessel traffic through the provision of a 24 hour Vessel Traffic Service (“TEES VTS”).
8. Regularly review the performance of the TEES VTS System and seek improvements through technical enhancement, development, and the training of staff with effective management.
9. 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 V-103.
10. Record all relevant VTS information to assist with incident investigation, enforcement and training.

11. 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 and associated legislation.
12. Conduct appropriate hydrographic surveys to International Hydrographic Organisation ("IHO") Standards, to ensure safe and efficient navigation within the area of the Port's jurisdiction.
13. Ensure that personnel conducting hydrographic surveys are appropriately trained, qualified and experienced.
14. Ensure that accurate hydrographic data is promulgated and made available to the UK Hydrographic Office ("UKHO").
15. 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.
16. Promulgate effectively when required navigational, tidal, hydrographic and other relevant information to Port Users/Stakeholders.
17. Prepare and regularly exercise emergency response plans to ensure effective management of any marine related incident within its area of jurisdiction.

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

Signed  Date *3rd February, 2021.*
Duty Holder, Port of Tees and Hartlepool

Signed  Date *3/2/2021*
Designated Person, Port of Tees and Hartlepool

Signed *P. D. Brooks* Date *9/2/2021*
Harbour Master, Port of Tees and Hartlepool