

## PILOTAGE DIRECTION 2025

PD Teesport Limited, as the Competent Harbour Authority for the Ports of Tees and Hartlepool, in pursuance of powers contained in Section 7 of the Pilotage Act 1987, and after consultation with persons who carry out harbour operations and the representatives of the owners of vessels which customarily navigate within the harbour, hereby directs that:

1. For the purposes of this Direction, the areas of compulsory pilotage are:
  - 1.1 the Tees, which comprises:
    - 1.1.1 the Approach Channel from Tees North Buoy to the inner limit of the Seaton Turning Area;
    - 1.1.2 the navigable area of the Seaton Channel and Holding Basin;
    - 1.1.3 the navigable area of the Tees between the inner limit of the Seaton Turning Area and No.23 Buoy;
    - 1.1.4 the navigable area of the Tees between No.23 Buoy and the upper limit of PD Teesport's jurisdiction.
  - 1.2 Hartlepool, which comprises:
    - 1.2.1 the Hartlepool Channel between No.1 Buoy and the western end of the Fish Quay;
    - 1.2.2 Hartlepool Dock.
2. Pilotage shall be compulsory for all vessels navigating in the areas specified in paragraphs 1.1 and 1.2 above, when:
  - 2.1 the OAL exceeds 95m; or
  - 2.2 the summer deadweight exceeds 4000 tonnes; or
  - 2.3 the gross tonnage exceeds 4000 tonnes; or
  - 2.4 the OAL exceeds 20m and the cargo(es) on board are substances specified in paragraph 9 below; or
  - 2.5 the vessel is in excess of 50m OAL and requires the services of a tug;
  - 2.6 the vessel is less than 50m OAL and requires the services of a tug, where a risk assessment carried out by the Harbour Master and Tees Bay Pilots so dictates.
3. In addition to paragraph 2, pilotage shall be compulsory for vessels navigating in the area specified in paragraph 1.1.4 above when:
  - 3.1 the OAL exceeds 80m.

4. Two Pilots will be required for vessels with a "size indicator" in excess of 195,000.
5. Any vessel manoeuvring using engines and/or thrusters shall be deemed to be navigating whether or not there is a line ashore.
6. Where the prevailing weather conditions preclude safe embarkation and disembarkation, compulsory pilotage for the area specified in paragraph 1.1.1 may be temporarily suspended for:
  - 6.1 hazardous vessels under 150m OAL;
  - 6.2 all other vessels under 175m OAL except:
    - 6.2.1 container ships, which must be less than 180m OAL; and
    - 6.2.2 ro-ro ferries, which must be less than 200m OAL.

provided that "Tees VTS" can satisfactorily complete the relevant risk assessment.

**7. Risk Assessment - Pre-Passage Requirements:**

- 7.1 inward bound vessels may only be considered for this manoeuvre during daylight hours (civil twilight);
  - 7.2 the Master has completed the appropriate passages on at least 2 occasions within the past 12 months, i.e:
    - 7.1.2 two inward passages (piloted or not) for inward bound vessels; or
    - 7.2.2 two outward passages (piloted or not) for outward bound vessels.
- NB:** These passages must have been completed by the Master in his capacity as Master of the vessel at the time.
- 7.3 the vessel has on board an up-to-date copy of Chart 2566 "Tees and Hartlepool Bays" or approved equivalent (ECDIS);
  - 7.4 the Pilot/Duty Pilot considers the manoeuvre is safe, given his knowledge of the vessel and the weather conditions.
  - 7.5 the Duty Assistant Harbour Master considers the manoeuvre to be safe, given the criteria specified in paragraphs 6 and 7 above,

**8. Risk Assessment - Passage Requirements:**

- 8.1 the Master confirms that he has a copy of the relevant Notice to Mariners available and agrees to follow the published generic Port Passage Plan.
- 8.2 the Master considers the manoeuvre is safe, given the weather conditions, size, power and reliability of the vessel;
- 8.3 for inward bound vessels, the Pilot confirms that embarkation before a line drawn between No.7 and No.8 Buoys is possible.

- 8.4 for outward bound vessels, the Pilot confirms that disembarkation after a line drawn between Phillips Approach Buoy and No.12A Buoy is possible and that it is part of the Passage Plan;
- 8.5 the vessel will remain under manual steering for the passage;
- 8.6 the Bridge Team includes at least the Master, a Mate and a Helmsman;
- 8.7 inward bound vessels enter between Tees North and South Buoys;
- 8.8 the visibility in the Sea Reach exceeds 1 nautical mile;
- 8.9 there is a clear channel with no other vessels approaching closer than 1 nautical mile at any stage of the unpioted passage;
- 8.10 the Duty Assistant Harbour Master can confirm that there will be no more than a total of 3 vessels moving in the Navigable Channels during this manoeuvre;

**9. Interpretation:**

- 9.1 Dangerous goods or marine pollutant means:
  - 9.1.1 any goods defined as dangerous goods or marine pollutant in Regulation 2(1) of the Merchant Shipping (Dangerous Goods and Marine Pollutants) Regulations 1997 (as amended), when carried in bulk;
  - 9.1.2 those goods contained in the "List of Oils" at Appendix 1 to Annex 1 of Marpol 73/78, when carried in bulk;
  - 9.1.3 explosives class 1.1 in excess of 1000kg NEQ.
- 9.2 "In bulk" has the same meaning as defined in the Merchant Shipping (Dangerous Goods and Marine Pollutants) Regulations 1997 (as amended).
- 9.3 "Size indicator" means the product of the overall length, extreme beam and moulded depth, measured in cubic metres.
- 9.4 "Vessel" has the same meaning as defined in the Tees and Hartlepoons Port Authority Act 1966 and also includes marine structures.

**10. Commencement:**

- 10.1 This Direction shall come into effect on 01 October 2025 and supersedes the version published on 02 February 2023.
- 10.2 This Direction reflects the change of company name from Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority Limited to PD Teesport Limited, which occurred on 1 April 2003.

**By the Order of:**

**Captain P D Brooks  
Harbour Master**

**NOTE:**

**Pilotage Exemption Certificates**

A "Pilotage Exemption Certificate" will be granted to bona fide Deck Officers upon written application and examination.

Details are obtainable from the Harbour Master's Secretary, PD Teesport Limited, Harbour Master's Office, Ferry Road, Middlesbrough, TS2 1PL. Tel: +44 (0)1642 277201;  
Email: [harbourmaster@pdports.co.uk](mailto:harbourmaster@pdports.co.uk) or via the PD Ports' website [www.pdports.co.uk](http://www.pdports.co.uk).