



موانئ أبوظبي  
ABU DHABI PORTS

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# Port of Musaffah Pilotage Directions

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## DEFINITIONS

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In these Directions the following expressions shall have the following meanings:

- 1 'The Authority' or 'Pilotage Authority' means the Abu Dhabi Ports (AD Ports)
- 2 'Port' means within the port limits of Musaffah.
- 3 'Pilot' means a pilot licensed by AD Ports.
- 4 'Master' means a ship officer who is competent and licensed to command and duly assigned by the ship owner to account for a ship.
- 5 'Pilotage Exemption Certificate' "PEC" means a certificate issued by The Authority to a ship's master exempting a vessel from compulsory pilotage when personally navigated by that master.
- 6 'Applicant' means a Master applying for a PEC.
- 7 'Master's Certificate of Competency' includes a local, national or international certificate of competency, including current and valid endorsement(s) issued by a competent Administration, allowing the Holder to take charge of the class of vessel being navigated.
- 8 'Holder' means the holder of a valid PEC certificate
- 9 'Tug assistance' means tug(s) pushing alongside or connected to the vessel and providing towing assistance.
- 10 'Vessel' includes all tugs excluding tows and self-propelled barges capable of maneuvering on their own power.
- 11 'Hazardous Goods' means goods with a potential to cause harm or damage to persons, other living organisms, property or the environment.
- 12 'LOA' means length over all of a vessel from the forward most point on the bow to the aftermost point on the stern.

- 13 'Combination Length' of a Tug and Tow is the total length of the combination measured from the forward most point of the leading tug to the after most point on the stern of the connected tail tug including the length of the towed unit and the towing rope between the combinations.
- 14 'Escort Tug' means any approved tug provided for the purposes of safe navigation and / or shifting in the channel.
- 15 'Side Towage' means any tug assisting a barge or a tow while connected through the side and transiting Musaffah Channel or shifting berths within Musaffah port limits.

## 1. DIRECTIONS

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The following Pilotage Directions will apply to vessels bound to and from the Port of Musaffah.

### 1.1 Compulsory Pilotage

Pilotage within the port of Musaffah is compulsory for vessels navigating, moving or shifting berth as follows:

- 1.1.1 All vessels  $\geq 80\text{m}$  LOA
- 1.1.2 All Tug and Tows  $\geq 80\text{ m}$  Combination Length
- 1.1.3 All assisting Tugs with Side Towage  $\geq 40\text{m}$  LOA
- 1.1.4 All vessels carrying hazardous goods in bulk  $\geq 40\text{m}$  LOA
- 1.1.5 All Passenger vessels carrying more than 12 Passengers  $\geq 40\text{m}$  LOA

### 1.2 Allocation of Pilots

A licensed pilot may be accompanied by a pilot under training or another pilot to assist him.

In exceptional circumstances, because of the design or size of the vessel or in exceptional weather conditions, the Harbour Master may allocate two or more licensed pilots to a vessel.

### **1.3 Pilotage Exemption Certificates (PECs)**

Masters of vessels subject to compulsory pilotage may apply for and be issued with Pilotage Exemption Certificates (PEC) for the port of Musaffah, subject to the conditions set out in Schedule 4.

A PEC will only be issued to a Master for a named vessel, or vessels, where the vessels are of similar size, with similar engines and steering and with similar manoeuvring characteristics.

## **2. PILOT BOARDING STATION**

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### **2.1 The pilot boarding station for the Port of Musaffah is centered on positions:**

24°34.30'N 54°13.94'E fairway pilot boarding ground

24°26.80'N 54°14.00'E Pilot Boarding station 2 for vessels less than 5 meters in draft

### **2.2 Pilot Boarding Arrangements**

Pilot boarding arrangements will be confirmed by VTS. Boarding speed should not exceed 5 knots.

### 3. ETA'S AND ETD'S

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#### 3.1 Estimated time of arrival (ETA) at pilot boarding station

Vessels bound to the Port of Musaffah requiring the services of a pilot shall give Musaffah VTS Station **12hrs** advance notification, including the ETA, maximum draft and destination within the pilotage area. A further ETA shall be sent to Musaffah VTS Station **no later than 3 hours** by VHF prior to arrival at the pilot boarding point.

#### 3.2 Estimated time of departure (ETD) or vessels moving within the pilotage area

Outward vessels or vessels moving within the Port of Musaffah which require the services of a pilot shall give Musaffah VTS Station **12 hours** notice confirmed by **no less than 3 hours** notice of their estimated time of departure (ETD).

#### 3.3 Failure to comply with ETA / ETD requirements

Vessels failing to provide an ETA or ETD, in the required time scale, may be delayed in the event of a pilot being unavailable.

## 4. PILOT EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES

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### 4.1 CONDITIONS FOR THE ISSUE OF A PEC

The Authority, in exercising the powers invested in it by the Transport Regulations (General and Port Operations) 2010, shall grant a PEC to the Master of a vessel within the Port provided the conditions set out below are met.

### 4.2 APPLICATIONS FOR PEC - CONDITIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS

4.2.1 Each PEC Applicant/ Holder must:

- a) Hold a Masters' Certificate of Competency endorsed as applicable by competent authority enabling him to serve as Master of the Vessel concerned.
- b) Be the Master of the Vessel which he will be piloting within the Port.
- c) Be less than 65 years of age on applying
- d) Provide a medical certificate testifying to his physical fitness to carry out his duties as Master.

Provide a current medical certificate (ENG 1) on or before the anniversary of the renewal date of the PEC. PEC holders aged 65 or over must

4.2.2 Qualifying and Assessment Trips for Vessels

- a) Masters of Vessels must have made the number of qualifying and assessment trips specified below, accompanied by a pilot in the Port, within the period of the current twelve months.
- b) An Applicant for a PEC in the Port of Musaffah must complete six inward and six outward trips, of which at least two inward and two outward trips must be undertaken during the hours of darkness, within the previous 12 months. For applicants who attend the Musaffah familiarization course (simulator) and are issued a certificate of completing the course, the number of trips shall be reduced to 3

inwards and 3 outward, of which at least 1 each way shall be in the hours of darkness.

- c) For the purposes of these Directions a trip will mean an inward or outward passage to or from the respective port and/or berth to or from the pilot landing/boarding station as appropriate. Moves between berths will not be regarded as a trip for this purpose.
- d) A Pilot appointed by The Authority will monitor and evaluate the Master's skill and performance in navigation, collision avoidance, ship handling and berthing/unberthing operations to determine the Master's ability to navigate and manage the vessel safely.
- e) Applicants for a PEC will be required to attend the simulator centre to undertake familiarization with port procedures and practices.
- f) Masters who expect to use approved tug assistance during berthing and unberthing manoeuvres will have to hire SAFEEN pilot.

#### **4.3 EXAMINATION AND ASSESSMENT**

4.3.1 Once the Master of a vessel has satisfied the requirements set out in Condition 4.2, he will be required to undertake and pass an appropriate written and/or oral examination set by The Authority.

4.3.2 Harbour Master shall examine the Applicant on the following points, but not limited to, local navigation of the Port for which a PEC is sought, the course and distance between any two places within the port, the rise and set of tides, the depths and character of soundings, the best anchorages, the sandbanks, rocks, shoals and other navigation hazards and dangers, landmarks, characteristics of buoys, beacons and lights within the port, VTS traffic control requirements, other local regulations, procedures, safe practices, Notices to Mariners and any other matters that the examiners consider to be appropriate.

#### **4.4 PEC REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

Each Applicant must submit the following documents required for the issuance of a PEC certificate with the application form issued by the Authority.



- 4.4.1 The original plus one copy of the Masters' Certificate of Competency, endorsed as applicable
- 4.4.2 Copy of the Vessel's Certificate of Registry
- 4.4.3 Seaman's book or other proof of sea service
- 4.4.4 Proof of Identity
- 4.4.5 Medical fitness certificate
- 4.4.6 A completed application form (Annex 1)
- 4.4.7 Piloting attendance form (Annex 2)
- 4.4.8 A letter from the ship's agent confirming the applicant's request and undertaking to pay the fee.
- 4.4.9 For the purpose of paragraph Error! Reference source not found. Owners or Agents shall submit a signed certificate stating the Master's name, vessel or tug and tows details and the number trips undertaken in the previous 12 months.

#### **4.5 VALIDITY OF PEC**

- 4.5.1 Validity of PEC is for 12 consecutive calendar months from the date of issue or until the date of expiry of the Masters Certificate, whichever is the sooner.
- 4.5.2 Exempted Masters who sign-off and sign-on again from / to the vessel(s) as specified in his PEC Certificate, will continue to be exempted from the requirement to take a Pilot until the expiry date of his PEC.
- 4.5.3 An application to the Issuing Authority for renewal of the existing PEC can be applied for provided that all requirements are met as per these Conditions
- 4.5.4 The Authority, at its discretion, reserves the right to suspend or withdraw a PEC whenever it deems necessary to ensure safety or security within the port.

#### **4.6 EXCLUSIONS, INDEMNITY AND REPORTING**

- 4.6.1 Pilotage will be provided until the PEC is issued.
- 4.6.2 All other port charges will remain payable and their collection will continue unaffected by the issue of a PEC.
- 4.6.3 A PEC levy charge is payable for each use of the channel as per Musaffah Channel Tariff
- 4.6.4 The ship's operator must ensure that the ship's Master or appointed Agent inform the Authority whenever there is change of Master and when the relieving Master does not have a PEC and hence make a request for a pilot.
- 4.6.5 PECs are not transferable – see paragraph 1.3 (PEC will only be issued to an applicant for a named vessel, or vessels of similar size, with similar engines, steering and manoeuvring characteristics).
- 4.6.6 Following any marine incident e.g., Grounding, Collision, Allision, pollution etc., the PEC of the person involved would be suspended. Issuance of new PEC will only be considered after a satisfactory report from the concerned authorities is issued.