

## **NOTICE TO AGENTS, BERTH AND SHIP OPERATORS No.10 of 2020**

### **PILOT EMBARKATION ADDITIONAL PROCEDURE**

*This Notice Replaces NABSO 8 of 2020 - Pilot Embarkation - Additional Procedure which has been redacted*

Following the outbreak of the coronavirus COVID-19, the UK Department for Transport, in consultation with Public Health England, has issued updates on the spread of the virus and guidelines ([UK Gov Guidance for shipping and sea ports on coronavirus\(COVID-19\)](#)) for the necessary steps to prevent the spread of the virus. Further useful advice for ship operators can be found at [Advice for ship operators for preparedness and response to the outbreak of COVID-19](#).

In support of those guidelines, the PLA have provided the following Pilot Embarkation Additional Procedure for the embarkation of pilots and subsequent vessel transit.

This Pilot Embarkation Additional Procedure applies to all vessels:

- (a) arriving from ports in a country in respect of which the UK Government has issued a virus alert
- (b) arriving from countries for which there is currently no virus alert, but which has a crew member on board who was in a country subject to a virus alert within 14 days prior to the date of proposed pilot embarkation;
- (c) highlighted by the local Port Health Authority, following the submission of a Maritime Declaration of Health (which is mandatory before embarkation of a pilot), as having reported a suspected COVID-19 case on board and/or having taken the precautionary measure of isolating a potentially affected crew member(s).

Responsibility for carrying out the following Pilot Embarkation Additional Procedure rests with the vessel's master assisted by the shipowner and local ship agent as appropriate.

#### **Pilot Embarkation Additional Procedure**

- All vessels must have submitted the required Maritime Declaration of Health to the London Port Heath Authority please refer to [NABSO 6 of 2020](#) / [Notice to Mariners 5 of 2020](#)
- In accordance with Public Health England guidance PLA Pilots are not compulsorily required to wear masks, it is therefore the pilots personal choice whether he/she wears a mask while on the bridge of a ship. Vessels which

have their own compulsory rules reference the wearing of PPE for pilots should notify the PLA at the time of confirming the pilot booking.

- Where possible, one hour before the pilot embarkation time, non-essential crew should remain clear of the designated route from the pilot embarkation point (either pilot ladder, accommodation ladder etc.) to the wheelhouse, especially where the route is within enclosed spaces.
- Immediately prior to pilot embarkation, all surfaces and equipment in the wheelhouse, or on the bridge wings, that the pilot may touch must be cleaned with a suitable cleaning solution.
- The wheelhouse, where possible, should remain well ventilated via the opening of external doors or windows.
- All crew at the embarkation point must wear suitable PPE.
- The crew member assigned to escort the pilot from the embarkation point to the wheelhouse must wear suitable PPE.
- Where possible, the route from the embarkation point to the wheelhouse should be via the open deck, as opposed to within enclosed spaces.
- The wheelhouse should be cleared of all crew not essential to the navigation of the vessel, and all crew member's present must wear appropriate PPE.
- Unless necessary for the safety of the pilot (i.e. during the embarkation process), crew or vessel, the pilot and crew should remain at least 2m apart.
- Similar precautions must be taken during disembarkation of the pilot either ashore or to the pilot launch.



If any vessel is not able to comply with the requirements of this notice they are required to notify London VTS, this information can then be relayed to the pilot prior to their arrival at the vessel.

Failure to comply with this notice may result in your Pilot being cancelled or your vessel delayed.

**1 May 2020**

Port of London Authority  
London River House, Royal Pier Road,  
Gravesend, Kent DA12 2BG

**Bob Baker**  
Chief Harbour Master

 <p>CERTIFIED LR ISO 9001 - ISO 14001 OHSAS 18001</p>	<p>Owners, Agents and Charterers should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.</p> <p>TO RECEIVE FUTURE NOTICES TO MARINERS BY <b>E-MAIL</b>, PLEASE REGISTER VIA OUR WEBSITE <a href="http://www.pla.co.uk">www.pla.co.uk</a> <b>Telephone calls, VHF radio traffic, CCTV and radar traffic images may be recorded in the VTS Centres at Gravesend and Woolwich</b></p>	 <p>PORT OF LONDON AUTHORITY</p>
--	---	---