

Marine Department Notice No. 142 of 2001

(Port Operations Procedures)

Pilotage Requirements for Vessels in Transit of Hong Kong Waters

The past twelve months have seen several marine accidents occurring in the Urmston Road involving transit vessels while waiting for the pilot of the onward passage. Investigations revealed that most of these accidents could be avoided had a continuous pilotage service been maintained.

With immediate effect, masters, owners, vessel operators and agents are required to observe the following when engaging pilotage services for transiting Hong Kong waters to and from the ports in the west of Shenzhen :

- i) The boarding time of the pilot of the second passage should tie in with the vessel's time of arrival at the pilot boarding point. A vessel with mismatched pilot boarding time may be denied entry into Hong Kong waters especially when the Urmston Road Anchorage is congested.
- ii) In the circumstance that a vessel in transit has to anchor at the Urmston Road to wait for the pilot of the second passage, the master should do so with the assistance of the pilot of the first passage on permission being granted by the Hong Kong Vessel Traffic Centre (VTC).
- iii) The Marine Department will relocate the Urmston Road Pilot Station to a position 1.5 NM north of the present position to facilitate a smooth transition of the pilotage services. Legislative amendments are in hand to amend Schedule 2 of the Pilotage Ordinance, Cap. 84. Separate announcement will be made upon completion of the legislative process. From now onwards, Hong Kong pilots are required to take Shenzhen-bound vessels to the new pilot boarding point.

Masters of vessels underway or at anchor in the Urmston Road are further reminded to keep a continuous listening watch on VHF Channel 67. They should also have onboard large scale Hong Kong Charts No. 1502 and 1503 for safe navigation.

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Any queries relating to this Notice should be made to the duty watch supervisor of the VTC at 2858 2163.

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Director of Marine

Marine Department
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