

Marine Department Notice No. 97 of 2007

(Port Operation Procedures)

Suspension of Pilotage Services during Adverse Weather Conditions

Ship owners, agents, masters and other port users are hereby reminded that during the passage of typhoons or other adverse weather, there may be the need to restrict or suspend pilotage services from time to time.

2. When pilotage services are to be restricted or suspended due to deteriorating weather conditions, the Vessel Traffic Centre (VTC), call sign "Mardep", will make announcements on VHF channels 12, 14, 20, 67 and 74, as well as the NAVTEX, at regular intervals prior to, and during the continuance of, the restriction or suspension. Similar announcements will also be made when partial or full pilotage services are to be resumed.

3. During the periods when pilotage services are restricted or suspended, the requirements for compulsory pilotage, except for passage through the Ma Wan Fairway, the berthing and unberthing at government mooring buoys, and the movement of tankers, may be waived in accordance with Section 10F (c) and (d) of the Pilotage Ordinance, Cap.84. Any other vessel wishing to enter, leave or move within the port during these periods may do so at the master's decision, subject to the following conditions :

- a) that the vessel shall, in all respects, be under normal operating conditions; and
- b) that the vessel shall report to VTC not less than 3 hours before her intended movement into, out of, or within the port, giving all necessary details such as the ship's particulars, length, draft, estimated time of the movement, intended route etc. The VTC may impose specific conditions for the safe navigation of the vessel.

4. Ship owners, agents, masters and other port users who wish to obtain information concerning the current status of pilotage services should contact the VTC either on VHF channels 12, 14 or 67, or at telephone numbers 2233 7801 or 2233 7802.

5. This notice supersedes Marine Department Notice No. 145 of 1999.

R. F. TUPPER
Director of Marine

Marine Department
Government of the HKSAR
Date : 22 June 2007
Action File Ref.: 30/07 to PA/S/VTC 103/7/2007

We are One in Promoting Excellence in Marine Service