**PACWG Paper No. 3/2026**

# PILOTAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP

## Proposed Amendments to the Berthing Guidelines for the berthing location at Ocean Terminal

## Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to seek members' advices and comments on proposed amendments to the Berthing Guidelines (BGL) for the berthing location at Ocean Terminal.

## Background

2. In August 2026, during the berthing of a cruise ship at the south berth of Ocean Terminal, strong currents caused the vessel to set rapidly toward the Star Ferry Pier, posing an imminent danger to the structure. An investigation revealed that the root cause of this near-miss incident was a premature turn executed by the Ship Master. The vessel ultimately required three attempts to safely complete the berthing maneuver with pilot's assistance. For most large cruise ship, berthing and unberthing operations are conventionally conducted under the direct command of the Ship Master, while most maneuvering actions are ordered by the Master instead of being advised by the pilot, in contrast with other types of vessels under pilotage.

3. Any potential collision with either Ocean Terminal or the Star Ferry Pier carries severe implications. Such an incident would trigger critical public concern regarding marine safety and port operations, ultimately tarnishing Hong Kong's reputation as an international maritime centre.

4. Following consultations with the Hong Kong Pilots Association (HKPA), the Marine Department proposes to establish a restricted area in the BGL for vessels berthing or unberthing at the Ocean Terminal, which covers two circled areas of 75 meters diameter extended from the center points of the two ends of the Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry Pier *(see **Annex III**)*.

**Proposed Amendments**

5. It was proposed to amend the BGL of some locations in chapter 12 with updated information as follow: -

a. Location Ocean Terminal south berth *(see **Annex I**)*

b. Locations Ocean Terminal south berth outer-foul *(see **Annex II**)*

**Presentation**

6. MO/Pilotage will present this paper.

**Advice Sought**

7. Advices and comments from members are sought for the endorsement of this proposal.

**Pilotage Unit**
**Port Control Division**
**Marine Department**
**October 2026**

# Annex I

**Berthing Guidelines** *Proposed October 2026*

Location : **OTS** **Ocean Terminal south berth**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 010 | **Berthing** | LOA: Max 80m | |
| **Draft:** | Max 7.5m (min 10% UKC) | | |
| **Time:** | 24 hrs | | |
| **Tugs:** | 1 | | |
| **Remarks:** | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 011 | **Unberthing** | LOA: Max 80m | |
| **Draft:** | Max 7.5m (min 10% UKC) | | |
| **Time:** | 24 hrs | | |
| **Tugs:** | 1 | | |
| **Remarks:** | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 020 | **Berthing** | LOA: Max 130m | |
| **Draft:** | Max 8m (min 10% UKC) | | |
| **Time:** | 24 hrs | | |
| **Tugs:** | 2 | | |
| **Remarks:** | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 021 | **Unberthing** | LOA: Max 130m | |
| **Draft:** | Max 8m (min 10% UKC) | | |
| **Time:** | 24 hrs | | |
| **Tugs:** | 2 | | |
| **Remarks:** | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 030 | **Berthing** | LOA: Max 230m | |
| **Draft:** | Max 10.67m (min 10% UKC) | | |
| **Time:** | 24 hrs | | |
| **Tugs:** | 2. If D>10m incl 1 GI escort | | |
| **Remarks:** | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 031 | **Unberthing** | LOA: Max 230m | |
| **Draft:** | Max 10.67m (min 10% UKC) | | |
| **Time:** | 24 hrs | | |
| **Tugs:** | 2. If D>10m incl 1 escort | | |
| **Remarks:** | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 040 | **Berthing** | LOA: Max 270m | |
| **Draft:** | Max 10.67m (min 10% UKC) | | |
| **Time:** | D&N HW-2 to LW+2 | | |
| **Tugs:** | 3 incl 1 GI escort | | |
| **Remarks:** | Port side to. | | |
| | Max Fwd = 9.45m Aft =10.67m. | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 041 | **Unberthing** | LOA: Max 270m | |
| **Draft:** | Max 10.67m (min 10% UKC) | | |
| **Time:** | 24 hrs | | |
| **Tugs:** | 2 incl 1 escort | | |
| **Remarks:** | Max Fwd = 9.45m Aft =10.67m. | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 050 | **Berthing** | LOA: Max 290m | |
| **Draft:** | Max 10.67m (min 10% UKC) | | |
| **Time:** | D&N HW-2 to LW+1 | | |
| **Tugs:** | 3 incl 1 GI escort | | |
| **Remarks:** | 2 pilots. Port side to. | | |
| | Max Fwd = 9.45m Aft =10.67m. | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 051 | **Unberthing** | LOA: Max 290m | |
| **Draft:** | Max 10.67m (min 10% UKC) | | |
| **Time:** | D&N HW-2 to LW+2 | | |
| **Tugs:** | 2 incl 1 escort | | |
| **Remarks:** | 2 pilots. | | |
| | Max Fwd = 9.45m Aft =10.67m. | | |

**General Remark:**

Vessels are strictly prohibited from entering the restricted area at the Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry Pier while berthing and unberthing (see diagram).

# Annex II

**Berthing Guidelines** *Proposed October 2026*

Location : **OTS/O-F** **Ocean Terminal south berth outer-foul**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 010 | **Berthing** | LOA: Max 175m | 011 | **Unberthing** | LOA: Max 175m |
| **Draft:** | Max 8.5m (min 10% UKC) | | **Draft:** | Max 8.5m (min 10% UKC) | |
| **Time:** | 24 hrs | | **Time:** | 24 hrs | |
| **Tugs:** | 2 | | **Tugs:** | 2 | |
| **Remarks:** | | | **Remarks:** | | |

**General Remark:**

Vessels are prohibited from entering the restricted area at the Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry Pier while berthing and unberthing (see diagram).

| | |
|---|---|
| **Location:** Ocean Terminal<br>**Type of amendment:** Establishment of a Restricted Area at the Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry Piers | **Annex III** |

