



QHM Portsmouth Navigational Safety Policy



The Queen's Harbour Master (QHM) Portsmouth has a responsibility to facilitate the safety of navigation for all water users within the limits of the Dockyard Port of Portsmouth. These responsibilities overlap with those of the Portsmouth International Port who have both Competent (CHA) and Statutory Harbour Authority responsibilities for various areas within the Dockyard Port limits and ABP Southampton who have overlapping CHA responsibilities and Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) responsibilities via a local memorandum of understanding. In order to achieve this, QHM Portsmouth will:

- Maintain an effective Safety and Environmental Management System (SEMS) based on a continuing, formalised assessment and mitigation of risk in consultation with port users.
- Review regularly the effectiveness of, and if necessary seek amendments to its legal powers, and Directions in respect of navigational safety.
- Monitor and direct vessel traffic within the port's designated VTS area (as detailed in Admiralty List of Radio Signals (ALRS) Vol 6) by provision of a Traffic Organisation Service, and integrate with traffic transiting through port limits by maintaining a close liaison with VTS Southampton.
- Provide an appropriate level of Admiralty Pilotage Service to MOD vessels within the port, and other vessels arriving at or departing from MOD facilities.
- Verify the fitness for purpose of vessels employed by QHM.
- As a standing member of Portsmouth International Port's Pilotage Exemption Certificate (PEC) Board, ensure PEC holders are conversant with local rules, regulations, and procedures.
- Ensure regular hydrographic surveys as appropriate and liaise with the United Kingdom Hydrographic Officer (UKHO) to ensure publication of the results.
- Co-ordinate and monitor maintenance dredging as appropriate.
- Notify and mark or as appropriate, remove sunken vessels and other obstructions that are, or may become, a hazard to safe navigation.
- As Local Lighthouse Authority, ensure the provision of necessary aids to navigation (AtoN) including liaison with other providers of AtoNs within and adjacent to the port's limits.
- Promulgate navigational, tidal and other relevant information to all port users.
- Provide effective management and co-ordination of responses to emergencies within port limits as appropriate including participating as a lead authority within the Solent wide SOLFIRE Emergency Plan and responding to oil spills in accordance with the QHM Oil Pollution Response Plan.
- Consult with port users and other relevant stakeholders in respect of navigational safety issues and proposed changes to navigational arrangements.
- Use competent people who are suitably trained, qualified and experienced to manage and deliver marine and navigational safety.
- Investigate and record navigational incidents that occur or are reported within port limits.
- Monitor the navigational safety of all organised marine events and works within port limits through review of submitted risk assessments and liaison with organisers.
- Monitor performance against the Port Marine Safety Code, Dockyard Port Marine Safety Policy and the port's SEMS through regular self-assurance, board review and periodic audit conducted by a Designated Person.

N J Randall
Queen's Harbour Master Portsmouth

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