



Partnering in growth, connecting people and supporting potential

PORT NOTICE

Line Handling Vessels

PN/005

OPS-LEG-05

General Manager, Operations

PREFACE

This Port Notice is issued pursuant to Section 57 of the *Ports Management Act 2015 (NT)*.

Port Notice for the provision of Line Handling Vessels operating in the Port of Darwin.

SCOPE

This Port Notice applies within the gazetted Port of Darwin as detailed in figure 1.



Figure 1: Darwin Port Limits

1. PREFACE

This Port Notice is issued Pursuant to Section 57 of the *Ports Management Act (2015)*.

The Port of Darwin is an “open port” for line handling services. The Port Operator neither provides a line handling service nor engages line handling service providers directly. This approach encourages competition amongst line handling service providers but does pose some challenges for the regulation of line handling service provider safety and operating standards.

2. REGULATION OF LINE HANDLING SERVICE PROVIDERS

Line handling service providers are not specifically dealt with under current legislation. Notwithstanding this, there is a need for some regulation in order to maintain minimum safety and operating standards.

Section 12 of the *Ports Management Act (2015)* requires the Port Operator to establish, manage, maintain and operate facilities and services in the designated port that promote its safe and efficient operation and to facilitate trade utilising the designated port and use its best endeavours to increase the volume of that trade.

3. NOTICE

In order to control line handling activities and conduct for the purpose of maintaining or improving its safe, secure or efficient operation, the Port Operator may carry out initial and annual inspections of line handling service providers’ management and vessel systems to facilitate an initial and then ongoing acceptance of the line handling services offered by each respective provider. The Port Operator reserves the right to carry out inspections as required.

Inspections will incorporate the following criteria:

- Line Handling Service Provider – management systems and policies;
- Vessel certification in compliance with NTG requirements;
- Line handling vessel crew knowledge, experience and training;
- Line handling vessel operating procedures;
- Equipment maintenance schedules; and
- Records of drills and emergency exercises.

4. VESSEL CONSTRUCTION

Line handling vessels should be constructed and arranged in such a manner that they provide the crew with adequate working space and appropriate lashing points and apparatus to safely handle all types of mooring lines, including wires, in all conditions expected in normal line handling operations.

5. PILOTAGE COMPLIANCE

In the unlikely event that a line handling vessel exceeds the lower pilotage limit length of 35 metres LOA, the compulsory pilotage requirements under *Technical and Safety Standards for Pilotage* and Provision of Pilotage Services in the Port of Darwin will apply. This means that the affected line handling vessel master must obtain a Pilotage Exemption Certificate in order to operate in compliance with NT legislation.

6. NON-COMPLIANCE

Darwin Port reserves the right to remove persons from its facilities if it is found their actions or anticipated actions may reasonably cause a safety, environment, security or operational incident. A Darwin Port Enforcement Officer may, at any time, confiscate a port pass or certificate.

Partnering in growth, connecting people and supporting potential

7. REVIEW STATEMENT

This direction will be reviewed biennially by the Port Management Officer.

REFERENCE LEGISLATION

- *Ports Management Act 2015 (NT)*
- *Marine (Pilotage) Regulations*
- Technical and Safety Standard for Pilotage and Provision of Pilotage Services for the Port of Darwin



PETER DUMMETT
Port Operator
Darwin Port
4 December 2023