

# **PORT NOTICE**

## **Harbour Towage**

### **PN/004**

**OPS-LEG-04**

**General Manager, Operations**

## PREFACE

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

## SCOPE

This Port Notice applies within the gazetted Port Limits of Darwin as contained in Figure 1.



Figure 1 – Port Boundary

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

## REGULATION OF TOWAGE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Towage 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, 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.

Towage service providers must be able to allocate, for each vessel movement, the minimum number of tugs to satisfy the class and number requirements stipulated in the tug assistance matrices set out in the Tug Assistance Requirement Port Notice available on the Darwin Port website.

## FUNCTION OF PORT OPERATOR

In accordance with Section 57 of the Ports Management Act 2015 (NT), the Port Operator may, by a port notice, control activities or conduct within the port for the purpose of maintaining or improving its safe, secure or efficient operation. It may, inter alia, control the movement or mooring of vessels within the port; or control activities on or by vessels within the port.

## NOTICE

In order to control harbour towage 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 towage service providers' management and vessel systems to facilitate an initial and then ongoing acceptance of the towage services offered by each respective provider. The Port Operator reserves the right to carry out inspections as required.

Inspections will incorporate the following criteria:

- Towage Service Provider – management systems and policies.
- Tug certification.
- Tug crew knowledge, experience and training.
- Tug operating procedures.
- Equipment maintenance schedules.
- Records.
- Tug master training including:
  - Pre-operation training on board.
  - On the job training including the completion of set manoeuvres under the supervision of a check tug master.
  - Port familiarisation.
  - Familiarisation with ship handling manoeuvres used in the Port through briefings or tripping with pilots.
  - A record of all training carried out.

## TUGMASTER TRAINING NOTIFICATION

Towage operators shall notify the Port Management Officer prior to the commencement of on the job training of a new tug master to facilitate notification of the port pilots of the tug master's trainee status.

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## **AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AIS)**

All tugs underway must operate an AIS Transponder.

## **PILOTAGE COMPLIANCE**

In the unlikely event that a tug 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 effected tug master must obtain a Pilotage Exemption Certificate in order to operate in compliance with NT legislation.

## **REVIEW STATEMENT**

This direction will be reviewed biennially by the General Manager, Operations.

## **REFERENCE LEGISLATION**

- *Ports Management Act 2015 (NT)*
- *Marine Act 1981 (NT)*
- Technical and Safety Standards for Pilotage and Provision of Pilotage Services for the Port of Darwin

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'DL'.

**DARREN LAMBOURN**

**Port Operator**

**Darwin Port**

**19 April 2021**