



Belfast Harbour Commissioners

Notice to Mariners

NO 4 OF 2009

MINIMUM TOWAGE REQUIREMENTS

Mariners are advised that as of 0001 on the 1st of January 2008 the following minimum towage requirements will be in operation within Belfast Harbour and constitute an update to the Harbour's Marine Safety Management System.

These Towage requirements are effective for average wind speeds up to 20kts. For wind speeds in excess of 20kts, Towage requirements will be assessed by the Ship's Master and Pilot and confirmed with the Harbour Master.

Table 1 Towage requirements for ships berthing at Oil berths OB1, OB2 & OB3

Berth	Ship length overall, m	Required number and size of tug bollard pull (tons)	Comment
OB1 & OB2	Less than 105m	No towage required	
	From 105m and less than 130m <u>with</u> a bow thruster	One tug not less than 20 tons for berthing. One tug (not less than 10 tons) for un-berthing.	Ships <u>will</u> berth bow south
	From 130m and less than 150m <u>with</u> a bow thruster	One tug not less than 20 tons for berthing. One tug not less than 20 tons for un-berthing.	Ships <u>will</u> berth bow south
	Vessels <u>without</u> a bow thruster	Individually risk assessed	
OB3	Up to 120m with bow thruster	No towage is required	
	Up to 120m without bow thruster	One tug not less than 10 tons for berthing One tug not less than 10 tons for un-berthing	
	Over 120m	Individually risk assessed	
All shifts between OB1, OB2 & OB3 for ships greater than 105m requires one tug not less than 10 tons.			
All shifts from outside Musgrave channel will be treated as arrivals			

Table 2 Towing requirements for ships berthing at Musgrave Scrap Wharf

Berth	Ship length overall, m	Required number and size of tug bollard pull (tons)	Comment
Musgrave Scrap Wharf	Less than 100m	No towing required	
	From 100m and less than 120m <u>with</u> bow thruster	No towing required	
	From 100m and less than 120m <u>without</u> bow thruster	One tug not less than 10 tons for berthing One tug not less than 10 tons for un-berthing	
	From 120m and less than 140m, <u>with</u> bow thruster	One tug not less than 20 tons for berthing One tug not less than 20 tons for un-berthing	<u>Without</u> bow thruster, one additional tug of not less than 10T may be required to assist with berthing <u>and</u> un-berthing
	Over 140m	Individually risk assessed	

Table 3 Towing requirements for ships berthing at oil berth OB4

Berth	Ship length overall, m	Required number and size of tug bollard pull (tons)	Comment
OB4	Less than 120m	No towing required	
	From 120m and less than 140m <u>with</u> bow thruster	One tug not less than 20 tons for berthing No towing required for un-berthing	<u>Without</u> bow thruster, one tug of not less than 10 tons may be required for un-berthing
	From 140m and less than 160m <u>with</u> bow thruster	One tug not less than 25 tons for berthing No tug for un-berthing	<u>Without</u> bow thruster, one additional tug of not less than 10T may be required to assist with berthing <u>and</u> un-berthing
	From 160m and less than 180m <u>with</u> bow thruster	Two tugs with not less than 70 tons combined bollard pull (one tug must be at least 40 tons) for berthing One tug not less than 40 tons for un-berthing	<u>Without</u> bow thruster, one additional tug may be required to assist with un-berthing
	Over 180m	Individually risk assessed	

Table 4 Towage requirements for ships berthing in Herdman channel

Berth	Ship length overall, m	Required number and size of tug bollard pull (tons)	Comment
Berths in Herdman Channel	Less than 100m	No towage required	
	From 100m and less than 120m <u>with</u> bow thruster	No towage required	<u>Without</u> a bow thruster, one tug not less than 10 tons may be required for berthing <u>or</u> un-berthing
	From 120m and less than 140m <u>with</u> bow thruster Berthing bow <u>north</u>	One tug not less than 25 tons for berthing No towage for un-berthing	<u>Without</u> a bow thruster, one tug not less than 10 tons may be required for berthing <u>and</u> un-berthing
	From 120m and less than 140m <u>with</u> bow thruster Berthing bow <u>south</u>	One tug not less than 25 tons for berthing One tug not less than 25 tons for un-berthing	<u>Without</u> a bow thruster, one additional tug may be required for berthing <u>and</u> un-berthing
	From 140m and less than 180m <u>with</u> bow thruster	One tug not less than 35 tons for berthing One tug not less than 25 tons for un-berthing	
	From 140m and less than 180m <u>without</u> bow thruster	Two tugs not less than 25 tons each for berthing Two tugs not less than 25 tons each for un-berthing	
	Greater than 180m	Two tugs not less than 70 tons combined bollard pull (one tug must be at least 40 tons) for berthing Two tugs not less than 70 tons combined bollard pull (one tug must be at least 40 tons) for un-berthing	

Table 5 Towage requirements for ships berthing at Stormont Wharf and West Twin Wharf

Berth	Ship length overall, m	Required number and size of tug bollard pull (tons)	Comment
Stormont Wharf and West Twin Wharf	Up to 100m	No towage required	
	From 100m and less than 120m <u>with</u> bow thruster	No towage required	<u>Without</u> a bow thruster, one tug not less than 10 tons may be required for berthing <u>or</u> un-berthing
	From 120m and less than 140m <u>with</u> bow thruster	One tug not less than 25 tons for berthing No towage required for un-berthing	Assumes ships berthing bow north <u>Without</u> bow thruster, one additional tug of not less than 10T may be required to assist with berthing <u>and</u> un-berthing
	From 140m and less than 160m <u>with</u> bow thrusters	Two tugs not less than 25 tons each for berthing One tug not less than 25tons for un-berthing	Assumes ships berthing bow north <u>Without</u> bow thruster, one additional tug of not less than 10T may be required to assist with un-berthing
	From 160m and less than 180m <u>with</u> bow thruster	Two tugs not less than 60 tons combined bollard pull (the smaller tug must be at least 25 tons) One tug not less than 25 tons for un-berthing	Assumes ships berthing bow north <u>Without</u> bow thruster, one additional tug of not less than 10T may be required to assist with un-berthing
	From 160m and less than 180m <u>without</u> bow thruster	Two tugs not less than 60 tons combined bollard pull (the smaller tug must be at least 25 tons) Two tugs not less than 25 tons for un-berthing	Assumes ships berthing bow north
	From 180m and less than 240m	Two tugs not less than 70 tons combined bollard pull (one tug must be at least 40 tons) for berthing Two tugs not less than 25tons for un-berthing	Assumes ships berthing bow north
	Greater than 240m	Individually risk assessed	

Table 6 Towage requirements for ships berthing at VT3

Berth	Ship length overall, m	Required number and size of tug bollard pull (tons)	Comment
VT3	Up to 140m fitted with bow thruster	No towage required	
	From 140m and less than 180 <u>with</u> bow thruster	One tug not less than 40 tons for berthing No towage required for un-berthing	Assumes ships berthing bow north
	From 140m and less than 180 <u>without</u> bow thruster	Two tugs not less than 70 tons combined bollard pull (one tug must be at least 40 tons) for berthing Two tugs not less than 70 tons combined bollard pull (one tug must be at least 40 tons) for un-berthing	

Table 7 Towage requirements for ships berthing at York & Barnett Docks

Berth	Ship length overall, m	Required number and size of tug bollard pull (tons)	Comment
York & Barnett Docks	Up to 75m	No towage required	
	From 75m and less than 115m <u>with</u> bow thruster	No towage required	
	From 75m and less than 115m <u>without</u> bow thruster	Individually risk assessed	
	Vessels greater than 115m to be risk assessed to determine the required towage		

- The Harbour Master will decide Towage requirements to any other berth or dock, depending on the circumstances prevailing at the time.
- A vessel with a bow thruster will be treated as not having bow thruster until the Harbour Master is satisfied with the effectiveness of the bow thruster.
- The same tug requirements will apply for vessels being shifted between different channels within the Port, as per departure/arrival.
- The Harbour Master retains the right to override these Towage requirements at any time.
- Cruise vessels will be individually risk assessed.

MINIMUM TOWAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SHIFTING

1. Vessels which do not require towage for either arrival or departure as per BHC Minimum Towage Requirements will not normally require tug assistance for shifting.
 2. Any vessel requiring 1 tug of not less than 25 tonnes bollard pull as per BHC Minimum Towage Requirements will normally require 1 tug of not less than 10 tonnes when shifting distances in excess of a ships length.
 3. Any vessel requiring more than 1 tug of not less than 25 tonnes bollard pull as per BHC Minimum Towage Requirements will normally require 1 tug of not less than 25 tonnes when shifting distances in excess of 50m.
 4. Linesmen are required for ships covered by points 1 and 2 when shifting more than a ships length. Vessels covered by point 3 are required to have linesmen for shifts in excess of 50m.
- The Master of a vessel retains the right to ask for towage in excess of this requirement.
 - These requirements are subject to the Weather conditions prevailing at the time of the shift.
 - The Harbour Master retains the right to over ride these towage requirements at any time.

BHC requires Towage Service Providers operating in the Port of Belfast to comply with the following minimum standards:

Crew Training:

Crew must be able to demonstrate the competencies necessary to achieve the towage acts defined within these Towage Requirements. Evidence of training must be available and provided to BHC Harbour Master on request.

Tugs with Bollard Pull of less than 20 Tons will:

- Be equipped with twin screw propulsion
- Provide appropriate and recent certification of bollard pull capability
- Be equipped with a swivel hook with remote release
- Be inspected annually to the MCA code of Practice for The Safety of Small Work Boats and Pilot Boats for operation in Category 3 Waters and have no outstanding findings to such code other than those waived by BHC Harbour Master as unnecessary to operations within Belfast Harbour

For Tugs with Bollard Pull in excess of 20 Tons will:

- Demonstrate the manoeuvring capability necessary to achieve the towage acts defined within these Towage Requirements
- Provide appropriate and recent certification of bollard pull capability
- Be equipped with a swivel hook with remote release
- Be equipped with a suitable winch
- Hold valid Certification to the UK Ship Classification or other International Standard to operate as a Tug not engaged in Long International Voyages and have no outstanding findings to such certification other than those waived by BHC Harbour Master as unnecessary to operations within Belfast Harbour



PORT CENTRE
BELFAST
1st January 2009

CAPTAIN K. G. ALLEN
HARBOUR MASTER