



NOTICE TO MARINERS

No.8 of 2021

Manoeuvring Requirements for Vessels in Belfast Harbour

This NTM replaces No 12 of 2016, which is now rescinded.

Mariners are advised that under normal circumstances vessels navigating within the port limits **must** be trimmed such that propellers and thrusters are immersed to ensure effective manoeuvring. Vessels are prohibited from ballasting or deballasting whilst underway, except when done for safety reasons, in which case the pilot is to be informed in advance.

The following must be conducted prior to any manoeuvring:

- Confirm that engines, bow thrusters and steering gear have been fully tested and safety checks have been completed before commencing a manoeuvre.
- Vessels must ensure engines are operational and hatches are closed during manoeuvring between berths.
- Undertake manoeuvres at a safe speed with due consideration to the effects of the manoeuvre on others.
- Take into account factors necessary to keep vessel movement under control at all times e.g. prevailing weather conditions, tide and manoeuvring space available.
- Confirm the presence of persons and equipment necessary for safe operations, including boatmen
- Establish means of communication between all parties before manoeuvring.
- Inform the boatmen in advance of any unusual requirements and any known facts to the vessels ropes or wires which may affect line handling.

Requirements for shifting between and along berths in harbour:

- Vessels must ensure engines, steering gear and thrusters are operational and hatches are closed during manoeuvring along or between berths.
- Linesmen are required for all ships shifting in excess of a ship's length.
- If a tug is required for a shift, as detailed in Belfast Harbour Minimum Towage Requirements, linesmen are required for shifts in excess of 50 metres.

Any queries should be directed to Port Operations by emailing:

operations@belfast-harbour.co.uk

PORT OPERATIONS
BELFAST
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HARBOUR MASTER