



Minimum Towage Requirements

Minimum Towage Requirements for Belfast Harbour

Mariners are advised that as of 00:01 on the 1st of January 2012 the following minimum towage requirements will be in operation within Belfast Harbour and constitute an update to Belfast 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
		Arrival	Departure	
	Less than 105m	No towage required	No towage required	
OB1 & OB2	From 105m and less than 130m with a bow thruster	One tug ≥ 20 tons	One tug ≥ 10 tons	Ships will normally berth bow south
	From 130m and less than 150m with a bow thruster	One tug ≥ 20 tons	One tug ≥ 20 tons	Ships will normally berth bow south
	Vessels without a bow thruster	Individually risk assessed	Individually risk assessed	
OB3	Up to 120m with bow thruster	No towage is required		
	Up to 120m without bow thruster	One tug ≥ 10 tons	One tug ≥ 10 tons	
	Over 120m	Individually risk assessed	Individually risk assessed	
All shifts between OB1, OB2 & OB3 for ships greater than 105m requires one tug ≥ 10 tons.				
All shifts from outside Musgrave channel will be treated as arrivals				

Table 2 Towage Requirements for ships berthing at Musgrave Scrap Wharf

Berth	Ship length overall, m	Required number and size of tug bollard pull (tons)		Comment
		Arrival	Departure	
Musgrave Scrap Wharf	Less than 100m	No towage required	No towage required	
	From 100m and less than 120m with bow thruster	No towage required	No towage required	
	From 100m and less than 120m without bow thruster	One tug ≥ 10 tons	One tug ≥ 10 tons	
	From 120m and less than 140m, with bow thruster	One tug ≥ 20 tons	One tug ≥ 20 tons	
	From 120m and less than 140m, without bow thruster	One tug ≥ 20 tons (one additional tug of ≥ 10 tons may also be required)	One tug ≥ 20 tons (one additional tug of ≥ 10 tons may also be required)	
	Over 140m	Individually risk assessed	Individually risk assessed	

Table 3 Towage Requirements for ships berthing at oil berth OB4

Berth	Ship length overall, m	Required number and size of tug bollard pull (tons)		Comment
		Arrival	Departure	
OB4	Less than 120m	No towage required	No towage required	
	From 120m and less than 140m with bow thruster	One tug ≥ 20 tons	No towage required	
	From 120m and less than 140m without bow thruster	One tug ≥ 20 tons	One tug ≥ 10 tons may be required.	
	From 140m and less than 160m with bow thruster	One tug ≥ 25 tons	No towage required	
	From 140m and less than 160m without bow thruster	One tug ≥ 25 tons for berthing (one additional tug of ≥ 10 tons may be required to assist)	One tug ≥ 10 tons may be required to assist	
	From 160m and less than 180m with bow thruster	Two tugs with not less than 70 tons combined bollard pull (one tug must be ≥ 40 tons)	One tug ≥ 40 tons	
	From 160m and less than 180m without bow thruster	Two tugs with not less than 70 tons combined bollard pull (one tug must be ≥ 40 tons)	One tug not less than 40 tons (One additional tug ≥ 25 tons may be required to assist)	
	Over 180m	Individually risk assessed	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
		Arrival	Departure	
Berths in Herdman Channel	Less than 100m	No towage required	No towage required	
	From 100m and less than 120m with bow thruster	No towage required	No towage required	
	From 100m and less than 120m without bow thruster	One tug ≥ 10 tons may be required	One tug ≥ 10 tons may be required	
	From 120m and less than 140m with bow thruster	One tug ≥ 25 tons	No towage required	Berthing bow north
	From 120m and less than 140m without bow thruster	One tug ≥ 25 tons (one additional tug ≥ 10 tons may also be required)	One tug ≥ 10 tons may be required	
	From 120m and less than 140m with bow thruster	One tug ≥ 25 tons	One tug ≥ 25 tons	Berthing bow south
	From 120m and less than 140m without bow thruster	One tug ≥ 25 tons (one additional tug ≥ 10 tons may also be required)	One tug ≥ 25 tons (one additional tug ≥ 10 tons may also be required)	
	From 140m and less than 180m with bow thruster	One tug ≥ 35 tons	One tug ≥ 25 tons	
	From 140m and less than 180m without bow thruster	Two tugs ≥ 25 tons each	Two tugs ≥ 25 tons each	
	Greater than 180m	Two tugs ≥ 70 tons combined bollard pull (one tug must be ≥ 40 tons)	Two tugs ≥ 70 tons combined bollard pull (one tug must be ≥ 40 tons)	

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
		Arrival	Departure	
Stormont Wharf and West Twin Wharf	Up to 100m	No towage required	No towage required	
	From 100m and less than 120m with bow thruster	No towage required	No towage required	
	From 100m and less than 120m without bow thruster	One tug ≥ 10 tons may be required	One tug ≥ 10 tons may be required	
	From 120m and less than 140m with bow thruster	One tug ≥ 25 tons	No towage required	Assumes ships berthing bow north
	From 120m and less than 140m without bow thruster	One tug ≥ 25 tons (One additional tug of ≥ 10 tons may also be required)	One tug ≥ 10 tons may be required	
	From 140m and less than 160m with bow thrusters	Two tugs ≥ 25 tons each	One tug ≥ 25 tons	Assumes ships berthing bow north
	From 140m and less than 160m without bow thrusters	Two tugs ≥ 25 tons each	One tug ≥ 25 tons (one additional tug ≥ 10 tons may also be required)	
	From 160m and less than 180m with bow thruster	Two tugs ≥ 60 tons combined bollard pull (the smaller tug must be ≥ 25 tons)	One tug ≥ 25 tons	Assumes ships berthing bow north
	From 160m and less than 180m without bow thruster	Two tugs ≥ 60 tons combined bollard pull (the smaller tug must be ≥ 25 tons)	Two tugs ≥ 25 tons each	
	From 180m and less than 240m	Two tugs ≥ 70 tons combined bollard pull (one tug must be ≥ 40 tons)	Two tugs ≥ 25 tons each	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
		Arrival	Departure	
VT3	Up to 140m fitted with bow thruster	No towage required	No towage required	
	From 140m and less than 180 with bow thruster	One tug \geq 40 tons for berthing	No towage required	Assumes ships berthing bow north
	From 140m and less than 180 without bow thruster	Two tugs \geq 70 tons combined bollard pull (one tug must be \geq 40 tons)	Two tugs \geq 70 tons combined bollard pull (one tug must be \geq 40 tons)	
	From 140m and less than 180 with bow thruster	One tug \geq 40 tons for berthing	One tug \geq 25 tons may be required	Assumes ships berthing south
	From 140m and less than 180 without bow thruster	Two tugs \geq 70 tons combined bollard pull (one tug must be \geq 40 tons)	Two tugs \geq 70 tons combined bollard pull (one tug must be \geq 40 tons)	

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
		Arrival	Departure	
York & Barnett Docks	Up to 75m	No towage required	No towage required	
	From 75m and less than 115m with bow thruster	No towage required	No towage required	
	From 75m and less than 115m without bow thruster	Individually risk assessed	Individually risk assessed	
	Vessels greater than 115m to be risk assessed to determine the required towage			

NOTE:

- The Harbour Master will decide Towage requirements to any other berth or dock, depending on the circumstances prevailing at the time.
- It is assumed that all the vessels manoeuvring equipment is operational and effective. Where this equipment is inadequate or defective additional towage may be applied.
- 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 and Specialised Ships will be individually risk assessed.

MINIMUM TOWAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SHIFTING:

1. Vessels which do not require towage for either arrival or departure as per Belfast Harbour 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 Belfast Harbour 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 Belfast Harbour Minimum Towage Requirements will normally require 1 tug of not less than 25 tonnes when shifting distances in excess of 50m. (With prior agreement of the Harbour Master 2 tugs each being $\geq 10t$ but with a combined bollard pull in excess of 25t may replace 1 tug of not less than 25t Bollard Pull)
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. Ship's crew must wear appropriate PPE for this operation including a Lifejacket.

NOTE:

- 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.

Towage Exemption Certificates

Under certain circumstances, vessels which call regularly to the port may be exempted from the minimum requirements. Such exemptions are subject to a procedure contained within the Port's Marine Safety Management System, and if successful will result in the vessel being issued with a Towage Exemption Certificate. Certificates are valid for wind strengths below 20 knots only. Possession of a Towage Exemption Certificate does not prevent the Master or Pilot of the vessel from using tug(s) should they deem necessary.

Towage Providers:

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

Crew Training:

Crew must be suitably qualified and 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 the Harbour Master on request.

Tugs with a Bollard Pull of less than 25 Tons will be:

- Be equipped with twin screw propulsion or meet the requirement of a tug in excess of 25 tons
- 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 the Harbour Master as unnecessary to operations within Belfast Harbour

Tugs with a Bollard Pull of 25 Tons or more will:

- Be omni-directional and 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 the Harbour Master as unnecessary to operations within Belfast Harbour



PORT CENTRE
BELFAST
1st January 2012

CAPTAIN K. G. ALLEN
HARBOUR MASTER