

FELIXSTOWE DOCK AND RAILWAY COMPANY
and
HARWICH INTERNATIONAL PORT LIMITED

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR TOWAGE PROVIDERS

Background

These Minimum Requirements for Towage Providers are issued pursuant to Article 4 of the European Union Port Services Regulation¹.

Any towage provider ("Towage Provider") that wishes to provide towage services for vessels calling the Port of Felixstowe or Harwich International Port (each a "Port" and together the "Ports") must provide satisfactory evidence that its operations are compliant with all relevant legislation, best practice safety management procedures and the requirements of the UK Port Marine Safety Code.

Nothing in these standards shall supersede any more stringent requirements imposed by other local authorities, including Harwich Haven Authority.

1. Equipment

In order to ensure the continuous availability of towage services at the Ports to all users, at all times of the day and night under safe conditions, Towage Providers must retain a permanent fleet of tugs which are able to tow the largest vessels calling the Port under the most adverse weather conditions under which the Port remains open. A Towage Provider's fleet must therefore include as a minimum:

- a) Four (4) tugs stationed within the Harwich Haven with a combined bollard pull of no less than 300 tons; and
- b) Two (2) tugs stationed within the Harwich Haven with full Escort class notation. For the avoidance of doubt, the two (2) tugs with full Escort class notation may be the same tugs as those in (a) above.

A Towage Provider must ensure that it is able to assist in emergency situations, including but not limited to fire, explosion, pollution and where a vessel calling the Port incurs loss of propulsion; loss of steering; collision or grounding. In order to comply with requirements on marine safety and to ensure an early response to any incidents, a Towage Provider's fleet must also include:

- c) At least one (1) tug stationed within the Harwich Haven which meets FiFi Class 1 requirements (i.e. 2 x 1200m³/hr monitors with 120m throw length and 45m throw height).

All tugs to be used at the Ports must be inspected and approved by Harwich Haven Authority as 'Fit for Purpose'.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2017/352 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 February 2017 establishing a framework for the provision of port services and common rules on the financial transparency of ports

2. Availability

A Towage Provider shall ensure that the towage services are made available to all Port users who wish to engage the Towage Provider on such terms and conditions as the Port user and the Towage Provider may reasonably agree from time to time.

In order to ensure the continuous availability of towage services at the Ports to all users, at all times of the day and night under safe conditions, the Towage Provider must:

- a) Ensure that at least:
 - i) three (3) tugs are permanently crewed and stationed within the Harwich Haven and are available at all times; and
 - ii) one additional tug can be manned and made available within two (2) hours of a call out.
- b) Properly coordinate planned out-of-service time for maintenance, repair, survey, dockings, etc. of its equipment in consultation with the Portmaster of the Ports or his nominated representative.

3. Crewing and safety standards

In order to ensure compliance with requirements on maritime safety and the safety and security of the Ports or access to the Ports, their installations, equipment and workers and other persons, the Towage Provider shall ensure that it provides adequate training to its employees and in particular shall ensure that:

- a) in-house training covering tug types, local knowledge and local operating practices, including powered indirect towing and bow-to-bow operations is provided to all crew. Training schemes should also include elements of ship-handling procedures in recognised ship training simulators and continued professional development;
- b) its crews are properly certified, qualified and trained to STCW Tug Mate/Master level, or Engineer equivalent;
- c) at least one member of the crew has professional proficiency in the English language and that all communications are conducted in English;
- d) all tugs are manned in accordance with flag state requirements.

Towage Providers acknowledge that the requirements of the Ports and their customers may change and that therefore the minimum requirements for towage providers may be amended from time to time however the Ports shall give advance notice of any changes to the Towage Providers.

Issued By:

Date:

 PORTMASTER
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8th January 2018
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For and on behalf of Hutchison Ports, Felixstowe

