

NOTICE TO MARINERS

No 11 of 2024

Port of Southampton - Diving at Work Regulations 1997 and Commercial Operations Involving 'Swimmers' (Amended)

- 1 **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that all operations involving commercial divers or swimmers in the Port of Southampton must be approved by Southampton VTS prior to the operation commencing.
- 2 For the purpose of this Notice the Port of Southampton is as defined in Byelaw No 3 of the Southampton Harbour Byelaws 2003 and as shown within the red lines in the chartlet attached.
- 3 All operations involving commercial divers must meet the requirements of the Diving at Work Regulations 1997 and appropriate Approved Codes of Practice (ACOPs) dated December 2014.

Diving

- 4 Diving contractors, Masters and Agents must ensure that a '[Diving Request Form](#)', is completed and forwarded to Southampton VTS at least 24 hours before the operation. Approval must have been received and a radio check completed with call sign 'Southampton VTS' on VHF Ch 12 immediately before the diving operation commences and a diver enters the water.
- 5 Breath Hold Diving is not permitted in the Port of Southampton, including all Marina's in the Statutory Harbour Authority area.

Swimming

- 6 For the purpose of this Notice a 'swimmer' is defined as a person who enters the water to undertake a commercial operation within the Port area and who is not subject to the requirements of the Diving at Work Regulations 1997.
- 7 All Masters, Contractors and Agents must ensure that a written Safe System of Work, with appropriate Risk Assessments, is submitted to the Harbour Master's Office prior to commencing any commercial operation involving 'swimmers'.

- 8 As a minimum, issues to be considered within the Risk Assessments are to include, but not be limited to:
- Scope of the task – surface work on piles, quay walls, outfalls, in the surf zone, on buoys etc.
 - Team size – sufficient, qualified, competent, prepared etc.
 - Equipment involved – wet suit or coveralls, foot protection, gloves, head protection, harness, lifeline, weight belt, knife, light, tools for the job etc.
 - Operational elements – daylight only, access to the water, environmental effects, visibility, lookout, radio checks etc.
 - Emergency measures – standby swimmer, recovery of injured personnel, availability of rescue craft, nearest medical facility, road transport availability etc
- 9 Additionally, a [‘Commercial Operations Involving ‘Swimmers’ Request Form’](#), must be completed and forwarded to Southampton VTS at least 24 hours before the operation. Approval must have been received and a radio check completed with call sign ‘Southampton VTS’ on VHF Ch 12 immediately before a swimmer enters the water and the swimming operation commences.

Communications

- 10 In all cases, communications on VHF Channel 12 must be in place and must be checked with Southampton VTS before operations commence. A constant listening watch must be maintained throughout all stages of the operation.

**Vessel Traffic Services Centre
Ocean Gate
Atlantic Way
Southampton**

**Steve Masters
Harbour Master**

15th January 2024

Owners, Agents, Charterers, Marinas, Yacht Clubs and Recreational Sailing Organisations should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.

