



**Marine
Management
Organisation**

Marine Licensing
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The Port Manager
ABP Southampton
Ocean Gate
Atlantic Way
Southampton

Your reference:
Our reference:

24th March 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 – Marine Licensing for Navigational Dredging & Changes to the Sampling Process for dredging and disposal applications

I am writing to advise you of the forthcoming changes to legislation that will require certain dredging operations in the English sector of the UK marine area to obtain a marine licence from the 6th April 2014.

Dredging activities were made a licensable activity by the Government as part of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, however when the Act came into effect in 2011 it allowed a period of transition during which low-risk dredging operations did not require a marine licence. This ends on 6th April 2014 when the activity will become regulated by the MMO.

These changes may impact a range of organisations from marine businesses such as harbours, ports and boatyards to sailing clubs and individuals who may maintain their own berth or jetty. They relate to dredging activities - the use of any device to move more than 500 cubic metres per campaign of sediments such as mud, sand and gravel. The changes do not apply to harbour authorities that have powers to dredge under local legislation, subject to conditions.

The MMO has been writing to as many organisations as possible to inform them of these changes however, I would be grateful if could you pass on this message to any organisations working within your harbour area that may require a marine licence for dredging activities.

It is important that any organisations carrying out dredging operations that may require a marine licence contact the MMO now to find out what they need to do to comply and to get the application process started.

We are also making changes to the timing of when samples are required to support applications for a marine licence you should be aware of. From 6th April 2014 any marine licence application for dredging or disposal of dredged material must include information on the physical and chemical characteristics of the dredged material. This is a change in



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procedure from the previous approach where sampling to inform an assessment of suitability of dredged material was usually undertaken after submission of an application.

Further information can be found on the MMO's website at www.marinemanagement.org.uk/licensing/marine/activities/dredging.htm contains a range of information about the changes and how to apply. You can also contact us on 0300 123 1032.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'A' followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line extending to the right.

Andrew Kerrigan
Head of Inshore Marine Licensing Team

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