



Forth Ports Limited

Commitment to the Port Marine Safety Code & Policy Statement on Navigational Safety

About Forth Ports Limited

Forth Ports Limited (“Forth Ports”) operates nine ports – Dundee on the Tay Estuary, Tilbury on the Thames and seven on the Forth Estuary – Leith, Grangemouth, Granton, Methil, Burntisland, Rosyth and Kirkcaldy.

Within and around the Forth and Tay estuaries, Forth Ports manages and operates an area of 280 square miles of navigable waters, including two specialised marine terminals for oil and gas export, provides other marine services, such as towage and conservancies and is involved in property, letting and development.

Forth Ports provides a comprehensive range of facilities in order to ensure the safe movements of shipping. These include a vessel traffic system (VTS), pilotage and navigational aids such as lighthouses, shore marks and buoys. Playing an integral role is the Grangemouth-based Forth & Tay Navigation Service (“FTNS”) which is staffed by qualified Assistant Harbour Masters and VTS Operators, provides VHF radio and radar coverage of the area 24 hours a day.

Navigational

Forth Ports aim to ensure a safe and speedy passage of all commercial and naval shipping from sea to port and back to sea again.

Forth Ports Limited is fully committed to fulfilling the requirements of the Port Marine Safety Code. Part of this commitment requires Forth Ports Limited to publicise a policy statement for Navigational Safety which incorporates not just the basic principles for Navigational Safety but also includes policy on Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) and Conservancy for the areas of jurisdiction. To this end, it is Board policy that Forth Ports Limited shall:

- Maintain an effective navigational Safety Management System (SMS) based on a formalised risk assessment process. Risks will be judged against objective criteria to ensure they are kept “as low as reasonably practicable” (ALARP). The SMS will be kept under a continuous review.
- Review regularly the effectiveness of, and if necessary seek amendments to, its legal powers, Byelaws and Directions in respect of navigational safety.
- As required by the Pilotage Act 1987, provide the required level of pilotage service.
- Consult with port and river users and other relevant stakeholders on navigational safety issues and proposed changes to procedures, guidelines, Byelaws and Directions.

- Within port limits monitor and manage vessel traffic through the provision of a 24 hour Vessel Traffic Service (VTS), monitoring designated VHF channels, Automatic Identification System (AIS), radar transmissions, Meteorological and Hydrographic stations and CCTV on a continuous basis.
- Regularly review the performance of the VTS system and seek improvements through technical enhancement, development and training of staff together with effective management.
- Maintain standards for training and certification of VTS personnel in line with IALA recommendation C-103.
- Record all relevant radar, VHF, CCTV and telephone communications to aid incident investigation and enforcement.
- Through appropriate systems maintain comprehensive and detailed records of all commercial vessel movements within the ports and rivers.
- Promulgated effectively navigational, tidal, hydrographic and other relevant information to all port and river users, where appropriate such information will be provided on a commercial basis.
- Prepare, publish and regularly exercise emergency response plans to ensure effective management of any marine related incident within its area of jurisdiction.
- Conduct appropriate hydrographic surveys to ensure safe and efficient navigation within the areas of jurisdiction.
- Ensure that accurate hydrographic data is promulgated and made available to the UK Hydrographic Office.
- Ensure that personnel conducting hydrographic surveys are appropriately trained, qualified. Undertake maintenance dredging as appropriate to ensure safe and efficient navigation within the areas of jurisdiction.
- Provide the necessary aids to navigation within port limits, to include navigation buoys, beacons and lighthouses. Such aids to be maintained and operated in accordance with the requirements of the Northern Lighthouse Board.
- Conduct regular audits of all marine navigational operations to ensure the continued effectiveness of such operations.

GC Hammond
Group Chief Executive Officer
Forth Ports Limited

A. McPherson
Chief Harbour Master
Forth Ports Limited

10th August 2023