

FORTH PORTS LIMITED

**PILOTAGE EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES
REGULATIONS**

February 2024

**FORTH PORTS LIMITED
1 PRINCE OF WALES DOCK
LEITH
EDINBURGH
EH6 7DX**

FORTH PORTS LIMITED	Document ID FPMDL/PF/08/04	Authorised By CHM	Original Date June 2011
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1. DEFINITIONS

1.1 In these Regulations, the following expressions shall have the following meanings:

“Applicant” means the Master (or, as the case may be, one of the vessels deck officers) applying for a PEC.

“the Authority” means Forth Ports Limited incorporated under the Companies Acts (number 134741) and having its Registered Office at 1 Prince of Wales Dock, Leith, Edinburgh.

“Deck Officer” means an appropriately qualified (STCW certified) officer, with a level of certification which would allow them to hold a command position aboard the named vessel.

“Dredger” means a dredger of more than 85 metres overall length engaged in dredging activities.

“Forth” means that part of the description of the limits of the Forth (as set out in Schedule 1 of the Forth Ports Authority Order Confirmation Act 1969) extending from the Eastern limits of the Forth as therein defined westwards to the Kincardine Bridge.

“Holder” means the holder of a validly issued and current PEC.

“PEC” means a pilotage exemption certificate, issued by the Authority pursuant to these Regulations in terms of section 8(1) of the Pilotage Act 1987.

“Pilot” means a pilot authorised by Forth Ports Limited under the terms of the Pilotage Act 1987.

“Certificate of Competency” means a recognised valid certificate of competency appropriate for the capacity in which the applicant serves, and valid for the ship(s) in which the PEC will be used.

“Vessel” means a vessel of over 45 metres overall length and more (including Dredgers).

2. REGULATIONS FOR THE ISSUE OF A PEC

2.1 The Authority, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 8(1) of the Pilotage Act 1987 shall grant PEC’s to a bona-fide deck officer of any Vessel within the Forth provided the conditions set out in these Regulations are met.

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3. **APPLICATION FOR PEC – CONDITIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS**

3.1 **General Conditions for all Vessels**

Each PEC Holder must: -

- a) be a bona-fide deck officer, which they will be piloting within the Forth.
- b) hold a Certificate of Competency enabling them to serve as bona-fide deck officer of the Vessel or Vessels concerned.
- c) exhibit a valid ENG1 medical certificate testifying to their physical fitness, and in particular, certifying that they are not suffering from any physical or mental infirmity or defect in vision rendering them unfit properly to perform the duties of pilotage.
- d) Apply to the Authority before commencing any qualifying trips. The application should contain copies of the applicant's Certificate of Competency, medical certificates and name of vessel. The applicant will then be issued with the PEC Application pack.

3.2 **Qualifying and Assessment Trips for Vessels other than Dredgers**

Deck officers of Vessels other than Dredgers, must have each made the number of qualifying and assessment trips specified below accompanied by a pilot on the Forth in the twelve months immediately preceding the date of their examination, and, during that time, must have been the bona-fide deck officer of the Vessel or Vessels of substantially the same class as that to which the PEC will relate. An Applicant must furnish proof that they have made the voyages specified and that they were on the vessel's bridge throughout the time the vessel was in the compulsory pilotage area. Such proof should be in the form of a PEC Tripping Record signed by the pilot. The tripping record should be on the appropriate form provided in the PEC application pack. The PEC applicant must inform the Authority's Chief Harbour Master after completion of qualifying trips. The assessment trips are to be completed in addition to and separate from the qualifying trips. Assessment trips must be undertaken following verified completion of all the required qualifying trips, with prior notification to, and prior approval of, the Authority's Chief Harbour Master.

Masters and First Mates requiring to be authorised to utilise tugs as part of their PEC must complete the tug assessment trips specified below. Tug assessment trips may be completed in conjunction with Vessel assessment trips. If for whatever reason tug assistance is required by a PEC holder who is not authorised to utilise a tug then the services of a pilot are required. Should a PEC holder who does not hold a PEC authorising the use of tugs require exemption when using a tug or tugs then the tug assessment trips specified below with a pilot must be successfully completed while utilising tug assistance.

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Port	Qualifying Trips at least half of which should be completed dockings or berthings. (Shifts are not qualifying trips)	Assessment Trips	Tug Assessment Trips
Grangemouth (i) vessels up to 100m LOA (ii) vessels 100m - 120m LOA (iii) vessels over 120m LOA	12 (2 carried out in darkness) 16 (3 carried out in darkness) Confirmed once vessel specifications known	2 In and 1 Out 2 In and 1 Out Confirmed once vessel specifications known	2 2 Confirmed once vessel specifications known
Leith	12 (2 carried out in darkness)	2 In and 1 Out	2
Rosyth	12 (2 carried out in darkness)	2 In and 1 Out	2
Burtonisland	12 (2 carried out in darkness)	2 In and 1 Out	2
Inverkeithing	12 (2 carried out in darkness)	2 In and 1 Out	2
Methil Dock	4 (1 carried out in darkness)	1 In and 1 Out	2
Methil Energy Park	4 (1 carried out in darkness)	1 In and 1 Out	2
Kirkcaldy	4 (1 carried out in darkness)	1 In and 1 Out	2

3.3 Qualifying Trips for Dredgers

Deck officers of Dredgers must have each made a minimum of 12 round trips, accompanied by a pilot, between the dredging area and the spoil ground. An applicant's PEC Tripping Record is to be signed by the pilot for each round trip between the dredging area and spoil ground.

4. ADDITIONAL/ALTERNATIVE QUALIFICATIONS

- 4.1 The conditions laid down in Regulation 3 above are the minimum requirements. There may be cases where for particular vessels (due to length, beam, draft, tug requirement, etc.), cargoes, etc., higher and more stringent qualification requirements will be necessary.
- 4.2 Equivalent Certificates of Competency of the Applicant's country will be accepted provided they are of a class approved by the MCA for the purpose. Furthermore, in the interests of safety, such Applicants must also demonstrate that their command of written and spoken English is adequate to enable them to perform the function for which the PEC is to be issued.
- 4.3 The Secretary of State for Transport has issued a direction that the Authority may refuse to grant PEC's under Section 8(1) of the Pilotage Act 1987.

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5. EXAMINATION AND ASSESSMENT

5.1 **Vessels other than Dredgers**

- (a) Once an Applicant (who is a deck officer of a Vessel other than a Dredger) has satisfied the requirements set out in Regulations 3 and (as appropriate) 4 above, they must sit the appropriate oral examination. Examinations will be held when required. The Authority shall appoint examiners who shall examine an Applicant on their knowledge of the local navigation of that part of the Forth for which a PEC is sought, the course and distance between any two places within that part of the Forth, the rise and set of tides, the depths and character of soundings, the best anchorages, the sandbanks, rocks, shoals and other dangers, the landmarks, buoys, beacons and lights within that part of the Forth, local Byelaws and any other matters which the examiners consider to be necessary. A number of the examination questions have been designated as safety critical. If a candidate incorrectly answers these critical questions the examination will be stopped and they will be deemed to have been unsuccessful.

Upon successfully completing an examination the applicant will be required to attend Forth and Tay Navigation for a familiarisation visit.

- (b) An Applicant who receives an unsatisfactory report following an appropriate assessment trip will be required after a period of one month to undergo a further appropriate assessment trip. If they fail to satisfy the assessor at the second attempt, the Applicant may again present themselves not sooner than one month after the second attempt but, if they fail again, may not present themselves until one year after their third attempt, their previous attempts being treated as null and void.
- (c) An Applicant who fails to satisfy the examiners at the first attempt may present themselves again after two months. If they fail to satisfy the examiners at the second attempt, the Applicant may again present themselves not sooner than four months after the second attempt but, if they fail again, may not present themselves until two years after their third attempt, their previous attempts being treated as null and void.

5.2 **Dredgers**

- (a) Once an Applicant (who is a bona fide deck officer of the Dredger) has satisfied the requirements set out in Regulations 3 and (as appropriate) 4 above, they must undergo a practical pilotage assessment. The Authority shall appoint pilotage assessors who must be satisfied as to the skill, experience and local knowledge of the Applicant. Thereafter the Authority's Chief Harbour Master may interview the Applicant.
- (b) An Applicant who fails to satisfy the pilotage assessors may present themselves for re-assessment following the completion of qualifying trips/periods as described in 3.3. If they fail to satisfy the pilotage assessors at the second attempt, the Applicant will not be re-considered during the term of the current dredging contract.

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6. CLASSES OF PEC

6.1 There are nine classes of PEC entitling the Holder to conduct Vessels without the services of a pilot within a specified part of the Forth, namely:

Port	Description
Grangemouth	That part of the Forth lying to the east of the meridian of 03° 41.5' West and the Port of Grangemouth, with the exception of the Braefoot Channels, South Channel to Leith, the area of the Middle Bank including voyages to/from the Hound Point and Braefoot Bay Marine Terminals, Leith, Burntisland, Inverkeithing, Rosyth, Crombie and Methil.
Leith	That part of the Forth comprising the South Channel approach to Leith and the adjacent areas south of Latitude 56° 02' north and east of Longitude 003° 15' West including the Port of Leith. Vessels with a summer deadweight of less than 8,000 tonnes and not carrying 12 or more passengers or dangerous goods will be exempted from pilotage when shifting berths within Leith Docks. In certain circumstances the Harbour Master will require a pilot to be taken. These circumstances include but are not restricted to the following: the close proximity of berthed vessels carrying dangerous goods or passengers and the use of tugs by the shifting vessels.
Rosyth	That part of the Forth lying to the east of the meridian of 03° 31.35' West and the Port of Rosyth, with the exception of the Braefoot Channels, the South Channel to Leith and the area of the Middle Bank including voyages to/from the Hound Point and Braefoot Bay Marine Terminals, Leith, Burntisland, Inverkeithing, and Methil.
Burntisland	That part of the Forth lying to the east of the meridian of 03° 15.0' West and the Port of Burntisland, with the exception of the Braefoot Channels west of No. 3 & 4 buoys, the South Channel to Leith and the area of the Middle Bank including voyages to/from Leith and Methil.
Inverkeithing	That part of the Forth lying to the east of the meridian of 03° 23.35' West and the Port of Inverkeithing, with the exception of the Braefoot Channels, the South Channel to Leith and the area of the Middle Bank including voyages to/from the Hound Point and Braefoot Bay Marine Terminals, Leith, Burntisland and Methil.
Methil Dock	That part of the Forth lying to the north of Latitude 56° 10' North and west of Longitude 003° West including the Port of Methil, with the exception of Methil Energy Park.
Methil Energy Park	That part of the Forth lying to the north of Latitude 56° 10' North and west of Longitude 003° West including Methil Energy Park, with the exception of Methil Dock.
Kirkcaldy Dock	That part of the Forth lying to the north of Latitude 56° 06' North and west of Longitude 003° 08' West including the Port of Kirkcaldy.
Dredgers	A PEC entitling the Holder to pilot a Dredger within the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Where the dredging is being undertaken. (ii) The designated spoil ground. (iii) The channels and adjacent areas transited on passage to/from the spoil ground.

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7. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

7.1 Each PEC shall contain: -

- a) The Holder's Name.
- b) The name of the Owner of the Vessel and if chartered the name of the Charterer for which the PEC is granted
- c) The name of that Vessel and its IMO Number.
- d) The class of the PEC and, where it is a PEC for Dredgers, the area or areas for which the PEC is granted.
- e) The date on which the original PEC is granted;

7.2 In the case of Vessels other than Dredgers, each PEC shall also contain:

- a) Each date of renewal.
- b) The name or names of any other Vessel or Vessels, belonging to the Owner and Charterer of the Vessel for which the PEC is granted, which is or are of substantially the same size and type and with substantially the same manoeuvring characteristics to which the Holder might be appointed Master or First Mate providing that the number of additional Vessels does not exceed the number of PEC's held for similar Vessels in the Owner's or Charterer's fleet. The Holder must comply with the renewal requirements set out in Section 8 in respect of each Vessel on the PEC or the name of that Vessel will be removed from the PEC.

8. **PILOTAGE EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES – DURATION AND RENEWAL**

8.1 **Vessels other than Dredgers**

- a) PEC's shall last for an initial period of the lesser of (i) one year (ii) the period expiring on 1st February immediately following the granting of the PEC and thereafter may be renewed annually on 1st February with or without the Holder having to undergo re-examination at the discretion of the Authority. No PEC shall be renewed without examination unless the Holder has made at least twelve inward and/or outward passages at the port specified on the PEC during the previous 6 months as a deck officer conducting the act of navigation for each of the Vessel or Vessels named. For the Ports of Methil and Kirkcaldy the number of voyages is 4.
- b) This tripping requirement is the minimum which must be attained before a PEC will be renewed. In certain cases for particular Vessels and cargoes a greater number of trips may be required.
- c) PEC Holders shall be assessed at intervals not exceeding four years in order that their certificate is re-validated. Such re-validation shall be in addition to the annual renewal requirement set out in clause 8.1 a). The re-validation process shall consist of an assessment trip with an appointed assessor from the Forth Pilots followed by an appraisal interview with the Authority's Chief Harbour Master and if deemed appropriate by the Authority an appointed assessor.

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Should the report from the Assessor Pilot or appraisal interview be unsatisfactory, a recommendation shall be made to the Authority that further consideration should be given to the PEC holder being no longer "suitably qualified" and, as such, the PEC is not to be re-validated.

In cases where it is recommended that a PEC is not to be re-validated, the PEC shall be immediately revoked and the Holder will be required to re-sit the Pilotage Exemption Certificate Examination.

8.2 Dredgers

PEC's granted to the bona fide deck officers on a Dredger shall remain valid for a year, if the vessel returns within periods of no greater than 6 months.

9. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

9.1.1 If any accident or damage is caused within the Forth by or to a Vessel under the charge of a deck officer holding a PEC, the Master shall as soon as practicable report the occurrence to the Authority's Chief Harbour Master, and thereafter furnish them with a full written report in the form approved by the Authority.

9.1.2 Should a Master or First Mate holding a PEC and being in charge of the vessel observe any breaches of Byelaws, General Directions, regulations, procedures, near misses or dangerous occurrences they shall report such observations as soon as practicable to the Authority on the Forth Ports Marine Report Form.

9.2 The Holder of a PEC shall keep fully acquainted with all matters affecting the navigation of vessels in the Forth and, if they observe any alteration in any channel or that any of the navigational marks are damaged or out of place, they shall inform the Authority immediately.

10. MEDICAL QUALIFICATIONS

The Holder of a PEC shall (notwithstanding the terms of Regulation 3 above), every two years, submit to the Authority a valid ENGI Medical certificate signed by a qualified medical practitioner.

11. EXEMPT VESSELS

11.1 The Holder of a PEC for Vessels other than Dredgers shall not attempt to pilot any Vessel whether belonging to the same owners or otherwise even although the name of such Vessel is on their PEC, unless they are a bona-fide Master or First Mate of such a Vessel. They must perform all pilotage duties within the Forth personally whenever pilotage is compulsory.

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12. **REVOCATION/SUSPENSION**

12.1 A PEC may be suspended or revoked in accordance with the Pilotage Act 1987 as amended by the Marine Navigation Act 2013.

13. **GENERAL CONDITIONS**

13.1 A PEC is issued to the Holder and is not transferrable. Loss of a PEC must be reported immediately to the Authority.

13.2 A Vessel or Vessels must remain the property of the Owners or chartered by the Charterers by whom the Holder of a PEC is employed or else the PEC will be held to have lapsed from the date of change of ownership. The Owner and if applicable Charterer must immediately inform the Authority of any change of owner or charterer.

13.3 A PEC issued for a dredger is restricted to deck officers of the Dredger undertaking the relevant dredging contract.

13.4 Any necessary alterations, endorsements or amendments to a PEC may only be made by the Authority.



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Group Company Secretary

6 February 2024

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Date

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