

Safe Speed

SAFETY FIRST

At Forth Ports, we are committed to ensuring the safety of all river users, port infrastructure, and vessels navigating within our jurisdiction.

Navigating at excessive speed or failing to maintain a proper safe speed puts you and other river users in danger. Vessel wake and wash can break mooring lines, damage port infrastructure, cause injury to crew on berthed vessels, and endanger smaller craft. Excessive speed and vessel wash can also create serious hazards for vessels conducting passenger tendering operations.

All Masters, Skippers, and Watchkeepers must remain alert to their speed and wake at all times.



Scan the QR code to access the Legislation section of the Forth Ports Website. Here you'll have access to the **Byelaws** and **General Directions** for the Forth and Tay. These outline safe speed requirements for vessels navigating within Forth Ports jurisdiction.

Key Safety Requirements

- **Navigate with Care:** In accordance with the Forth Byelaws and Dundee Port Authority Byelaws, the master of every vessel must navigate with due care and caution, and at a speed and in a manner that does not endanger the safety of, or cause injury or damage to, any person, vessel, buoy, or property.
- **Passing Terminals & Moored Vessels:** A strict speed limit of 10 knots over the ground applies when passing within 5 cables of a ship lying alongside Crombie Jetty or Hound Point Terminal, or when passing within 5 cables of a vessel at anchor or moored to a buoy.
- **Assess Environmental Conditions:** A maximum speed limit does not mean it is a safe speed for all conditions. Adjust your speed downward for poor visibility, heavy traffic, confined channels, when passing berths where cargo or mooring operations are underway and when passing vessels conducting tendering operations..
- **Monitor Your Wash:** You are responsible for your wake. Even when complying with numerical speed limits, reduce speed further if your vessel creates an excessive wash that poses a threat to others.



Compliance & Monitoring

- **VTS Monitoring:** The Forth & Tay Navigation Service (FTNS) continuously monitors and records ship speeds throughout the port limits using radar and AIS. Speed violations will be challenged and investigated.
- **Reporting:** Any excessive wake incidents or near-misses observed within the river are immediately reported to FTNS.

Compliance is not optional. Failure to comply can result in prosecution.



The high-speed passenger craft the Seadogz was involved in a fatal incident on the Solent. The investigation highlighted the importance of maintaining a proper lookout, proceeding at a safe speed, and remaining aware of other river users and infrastructure. Scan the QR code to read the MAIB report.

***Let's work together to ensure every operation is carried out safely —
so everyone goes home safe, every day.***

MGN 715(M+F) Recommended Best Practice for Respectful and Safe Operation in Shared Spaces highlights the importance of considerate navigation and maintaining safe, controlled vessel speeds in shared waters to minimise risk to all users. Scan the QR code to read the full notice.

