

Vessel Readiness and Pre-Berthing & Pre-Departure Pilot's Test Requirements

Number: PH 10/24

Date Issued: 2/07/2024

Date of Effect:	1 July 2024
Details:	Pre-Berthing & Pre-Departure Tests by Pilots
Former Notice:	N/A
Charts & Publications:	N/A
Further Notice:	N/A

All Licenced Pilots Servicing Pilbara Ports (Port Hedland),

As part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring the highest standards of safety and operational efficiency within the Port of Port Hedland, vessel readiness is of critical importance, particularly regarding the required pre-arrival for inbound vessels and pre-departure tests for outbound vessels on bridge equipment, navigational aids (Nav Aids), and machinery.

- **Pilot-Master Exchange:** Ensure that all pre-berthing & pre-departure checks are discussed and confirmed as part of the pilot-master exchange to facilitate a smooth and coordinated berthing and un-berthing process.

Outbound and Pre-Departure Tests:

It is imperative that all bridge equipment and Nav Aids undergo thorough testing before departure by the Bridge Team. These tests should include, but not be limited to the following:

- **Functionality/Operational Checks:** Master to confirm to pilot(s) that all navigational aids, such as radar, ECDIS, GPS, and AIS, are fully operational and free from defects.
- **Communication Systems:** Master to confirm to pilot(s) all communication equipment, including VHF radios, and internal communication systems, are functioning correctly.
- **Bridge Indicators:** Pilots to conduct visual checks to confirm that the Rudder angle, Engine RPM indicators and Telegraph Setting are working properly and accurately reflect the vessel's correct status.

Machinery Tests:

To maintain operational readiness and safety, comprehensive machinery tests must be conducted, including:

1. Steering Tests:

- Perform steering tests to verify the functionality of the steering gear.

All current Local Marine Notices are available on our website: [Local Marine Notices](#)

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Mariners and other port users are requested to notify the Harbour Master on the discovery of new or suspected dangers to navigation within the port.

- Conduct rudder angle hard-to-hard checks (with two motors) and observe the timings to ensure responsive steering control.
- Test the Non-Follow-Up (NFU) system with the helmsman to ensure it functions as a backup steering control method.
- Establish communication with the steering gear flat to confirm seamless operations between the bridge and the steering gear room as per Local Marine Notice 05/22 Port Hedland.

2. Main Engine (M/E) Tests:

- Change of Control: Master to confirm to pilot(s) that M/E control from the Engine Control Room (ECR) to bridge control and verify/confirm that the transition is smooth and reliable.
- M/E Test Execution: the M/E Tests for Cape Size vessels over 120,000 DWT, can be conducted once a minimum of two tugs are in attendance. For vessels under 120,000 DWT, the test should be conducted with a minimum of one tug in attendance.
- Air Pressure: Ensure that there is sufficient and available air pressure for main engine movements to facilitate the required tests and successive departure manoeuvres.
- These tests are crucial to confirm that the main engine and associated controls are operating correctly and can respond appropriately to bridge commands.

Inbound and Pre-Berthing Checks:

Pre-berthing checks are essential to ensure the vessel's readiness for safe berthing operations. These checks should include:

- **Main Engine Readiness:** Confirm with the Master that the engine has been tested ahead and astern and confirm its readiness and reliability for berthing manoeuvres.
- **Steering Gear Functionality:** (As per above described tests in Point 1) Verify the full functionality/operation of the steering gear, including establishing contact with the steering gear room to ensure seamless operations.
- **Bridge Indicators:** Check all relevant bridge indicators including RPM and rudder angle indicators to ensure they are functioning correctly and are free from defects.
- **Functionality/Operational Checks:** Master to confirm to pilot(s) that all navigational aids, such as radar, ECDIS, GPS, AIS, and VHF are fully operational and free from defects.

Reporting Requirements:

It is essential that any defects or issues identified during these tests be reported promptly in accordance with the Local Marine Notice 09/2024 reporting requirement notice. This ensures that any necessary risk mitigation actions can be taken without delay, maintaining the safety and efficiency of port operations.

**PORT OF PORT HEDLAND
LOCAL MARINE NOTICE
10/24**



Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the Harbour Master Team.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Behrouz Daei Zadeh", written over a horizontal line.

**Behrouz Daei Zadeh
Harbour Master East (Port Hedland)**