

Vessel Preparedness for Emergency Steering Event in Port Waters

Number: PH 19/24

Date Issued: 30/10/2024

Date of Effect:	29 October 2024
Details:	Vessel Preparedness for Emergency Steering Event in Port Waters
Former Notice:	PH 05/22 (P) – Withdrawn
Charts & Publications:	AUS 53
Further Notice:	N/A
Attachments:	N/A

In response to recent towage strategy review and assessments, the following updated requirements have been established to enhance emergency steering preparedness for vessels navigating in Port Hedland waters. These requirements are applicable as outlined below.

1. Competent Standby Personnel Requirements

For inbound vessels:

- A competent standby person(s) must be present in the steering gear room from the time the vessel enters the Port Hedland Shipping Channel until the vessel is alongside the berth.

Note: entries include 15/16 entry, 26 entry and 30/31 entry,

For outbound vessels:

- A competent standby person(s) must be present in the steering gear room from the time all mooring lines are released until the vessel has passed beacons 15/16 in the Shipping Channel.

The Competent standby person(s) in the steering gear room should:

- Be well-trained and proficient in emergency steering procedures, including switching to local emergency steering mode and maintaining a clear, direct communication link with the vessel's bridge and **change the rudder angle** as per directions from the bridge.
- Be capable of identifying and communicating the rudder's actual position (rudder angle) to the bridge when requested.
- Remain stationed in the steering gear room until officially dismissed by the pilot.

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

Port Hedland Harbour Master Team | Phone: (08) 9173 9030 | Email: ph.hmteam@pilbaraports.com.au
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.

The vessel's Master must ensure the competent standby person(s) does not operate any machinery unless instructed by the bridge.

2. Emergency Steering Gear Testing Requirements

Marine Pilot Task - All Departure Cape-size vessels and above (>120.000 DWT)

- Prior to departure, while a **marine pilot is onboard**, vessels must conduct a test of the emergency steering gear. This test should confirm:
 - The proper execution of an order issued by the marine pilot.
 - Establishment of a clear communication channel between the bridge and the competent person(s) in the steering gear flat.
 - The ability to switch from bridge control to local control in the steering gear flat, with execution of a rudder movement order within 45 to 60 seconds.
 - Note and verify of time to go from hard over to mid-ship and hard over to opposite side.

Pre-Arrival Recommendations:

- It is strongly recommended that vessels calling at Port Hedland conduct an emergency steering test before arrival. This test should verify:
 - Changeover from bridge control to local control in the steering gear flat and change the rudder angle within 45 to 60 seconds.
 - Clear communication establishment with the bridge.
 - Note and verify of time to go from hard over to Mid-ship and hard over to opposite side.

Given some alignment required to assess the timings for pilot boarding, this notice will be on **trial until 1st December 2024** before its full enforcement on that date, no further communication will be required.

For further information or clarification regarding this notice, please contact the Harbour Master Team.

Thank you,



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