



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE

MSN 1805 (M)

INLAND WATERS AND MARITIME SHIPPING LANES (NAVIGABILITY LICENCES)

Notice to all Shipowners, Operators, Certifying Authorities, Shipbuilders, Ship Repairers, Ship Masters and Surveyors of Passenger Vessels

PLEASE NOTE:-

Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel and you should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.

Summary

- This Merchant Shipping Notice lays down the procedure for obtaining a navigability licence to operate a UK Passenger Vessel on inland waterways elsewhere in the EC, and lists the UK waterways which are designated as Maritime Shipping Lanes for the purposes of navigability licences issued by other EC member States.
- There is no effect for those operating UK Passenger Vessels only on UK inland waterways.

1. Introduction

1.1 Under Council Directive 76/135/EEC of 20 January 1976 on reciprocal recognition of navigability licences for inland waterway vessels⁽¹⁾, as modified by Council Directive 82/714/EEC laying down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels⁽²⁾, certain passenger vessels used on inland waterways are permitted to navigate on the inland waterways of member States of the European Community other than their 'home' State without needing further authorisation from those States. The Directive applies to vessels used on inland waterways for the transport of more than 12 passengers, which are referred to for the purposes of this Merchant Shipping Notice as "Passenger Vessels".

¹ O.J. L 21, 29.01.1976 p 10, as amended by Council Directive 78/1016/EEC O.J. L 349 13.12.1978 p. 31.

² O.J. L 301 28.10.1982, as amended by the Act of Accession of Austria, Sweden and Finland (O.J. C 241 29.8.1994, p. 21, adapted by Council Decision 95/1/EC, Euratom, ECSC O.J. L1 1.1.1995, p.1) and the Act concerning the conditions of accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic and the adjustments to the Treaties on which the European Union is founded (O.J. L 236, 23.9.2003, p. 33).

2. Navigability Licences

2.1 The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has responsibility for issuing navigability licences to enable Passenger Vessels registered or having their home port in the United Kingdom to operate on inland waterways in other EC member States. Any person wishing to obtain such a licence should apply to the MCA at the address and quoting the file reference set out at the end of this MSN. The information listed in Annex 1 to this MSN should be provided with the application.

2.2 A navigability licence is not required for UK Passenger Vessels which operate only on UK inland waterways.

2.3 Directive 76/135/EEC, as modified, also provides that Passenger Vessels with navigability licences and other certificates issued by other European Community member States, which comply with the requirements of that Directive, are not required to have a separate navigability licence issued by the UK in order to navigate on UK inland waterways.

2.4 However, all passenger ships which operate on maritime shipping lanes in the UK, whether UK vessels or vessels from other member States, are required to comply with the relevant UK regulations for passenger ships, in particular:

2.4.1 The Merchant Shipping (Passenger Ship Construction: Ships of Classes III to VI(A)) Regulations 1998⁽³⁾;

2.4.2 The Merchant Shipping (Survey and Certification) Regulations 1995⁽⁴⁾;

2.4.3 The Merchant Shipping (Safety of Navigation) Regulations 2002 (for vessels of 45m and over)⁽⁵⁾ or the Merchant Shipping (Bridge Visibility) (Small Passenger Ships) Regulations 2005 (for vessels under 45m)⁽⁶⁾; and

2.4.4 The Merchant Shipping (Fire Protection: Small Ships) Regulations 1998⁽⁷⁾.

3. Maritime Shipping Lanes

3.1 Annex 2 to this MSN lists the waterways which are designated as maritime shipping lanes for the purposes of Directive 76/135/EEC. The list includes most UK Category D waters and Category C waters (as listed in MSN 1776(M)).

⁽³⁾ S.I. 1998/2515, subject to partial revocation and amendments made by S.I. 2000/2687, 2001/1638, 2002/1650 and 2004/302.

⁽⁴⁾ S.I. 1995/1210, amended by S.I. 1996/2418, 1996/3188, 2000/1334, 2000/2687, 2002/1473, 2003/771, 2004/302, 2004/1107, 2004/2883 and 2005/2114.

⁽⁵⁾ S.I. 2002/1473, amended by S.I. 2004/302, 2004/2110 and 2005/2114.

⁽⁶⁾ S.I. 2005/2286

⁽⁷⁾ S.I. 1998/1011, subject to partial revocation and amendments made by S.I. 1999/992, 1999/1957, 2000/2687, 2003/2951, 2004/302 and 2005/2114.

More Information

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**ANNEX 1
INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED WITH
APPLICATION FOR NAVIGABILITY LICENCE**

Information marked * is to be provided only if applicable

1. Name and domicile of the owner of the vessel
2. Name of vessel
- *3. Place and number of registration
- *4. Home port
5. Main characteristics:
 - (a) overall length in metres
 - (b) overall breadth in metres
 - (c) depth below waterline at maximum draught(s) in metres
- *6. Dead weight(s) in metric tons or displacement(s) in cubic metres at maximum draught(s)
- *7. Indication of draught marking
- *8. Maximum authorised number of passengers
- *9. Total power of propelling engines in HP or KW
10. Minimum freeboard(s) in centimetres

**ANNEX 2
UK MARITIME SHIPPING LANES**

	Inner Limits	Outer Limits
SCOTLAND		
SCOTTISH MAINLAND		
Kyle of Durness & Balnakiel Bay		Between Eilean Dubh and A'Chleit
Durnoch Forth and Kyle of Sutherland		A line drawn between Durnoch Point through No.1 beacon and to the south bank
Loch Fleet		West of longitude 4 degrees(W)
Cromarty Firth		A line from North Sutor and South Sutor
Inverness	Head of Beaully Firth	A line from North Sutor to Nairn Breakwater
Findhorn Bay		Within the spit
Montrose Basin		A line running North-South across the harbour entrance at Scurdie Ness Lighthouse
River Tay - Dundee	Perth	A line from Broughty Castle to Tayport
Firth of Forth and River Forth		A line from Kirkcaldy to Portobello
Dumfries & Solway Firth	Dumfries, Gretna and Rockcliffe	A line from Southernness Point to Silloth
Loch Ryan		A line from Finnart's Point to Milleur Point
Ayr Harbour		Inside the Bar
The Clyde	Glasgow	<p>A line from Skipness to a position one mile south of Garroch Head thence to Farland Head</p> <p>Inner limit in winter:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a line from Cloch Lighthouse to Dunoon Pier</p> <p>Inner limit in summer:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a line from Bogany Point, Isle of Bute to Skelmorlie Castle and a line from Ardlamont Point to the southern extremity of Ettrick Bay inside the Kyles of Bute</p> <p>Note: The above inner summer limit is extended between 5 June and 5 September (both dates inclusive) by a line from a point two miles off the Ayrshire coast at Skelmorlie Castle to Tomont End, Cumbrae, and a line from Portachur Point, Cumbrae to Inner Brigurd Point Ayrshire</p>
Kyles of Bute		Between Colintrave and Rhubodach

	Inner Limits	Outer Limits
Campbeltown Harbour		A line from Macringan's Point to Ottercharach Point
Oban		An area bounded on the north by a line from Dunollie Point Light to Ard na Chruidh and to the south by a line from Rudha Seanach to Ard na Cuile
Loch Etive		Within Loch Etive above the Falls of Lora
Loch Leven		The bridge at Ballachulish
Loch Linnhe & Loch Eil		North of Corran Point light
Caledonian Canal		Lochs Lochy, Oich and Ness
Kyle of Lochalsh		Through Loch Alsh to the head of Loch Duich
Loch Carron		Between Stromemore and Strome Ferry
Loch Gairloch		In winter: none
Loch Gairloch		In summer: A line running east from Rubha na Moine to Eilan Horrisdale thence to Rubha nan Eanntag
Loch Broom, Ullapool		A line from Ullapool Point Light to Aultnaharrie
Kylesku		Across Loch Cairnbawn in the area between the eastern-most point of Garbh Eilean and the western-most point of Eilean na Rainich
SHETLAND ISLES		
Blue Mull Sound		Between Gutcher and Belmont.
Yell Sound		Between Tofts Voe and Ulsta.
Sullom Voe		A line from the north-east point of Gluss Island to the northern point of Calback Ness.
Dales Voe		In winter: a line from the north point of Kebister Ness to the Coast of Breiwick at longitude 1° 10.8'W
Dales Voe		In summer: as for Lerwick
Lerwick		In winter: to the northward, a line from Scottle Holm to Scarfi Taing on Bressay and to the southward, a line from Twageos Point Lighthouse to Whalpa Taing on Bressay
Lerwick		In summer: to the northward, a line from Brim Ness to the north east corner of Inner Score and to the southward, a line from the south end of Ness of Sound to Kirkabisterness
ORKNEY ISLES		
Kirkwall		Between Kirkwall and Rousay not east of a line between Point of Graand (Egilsay) and Galt Ness (Shapinsay) or between Head of Work (Mainland) through Helliær Holm light to the shore of Shapinsay; not north west of the south east tip of Eynhallow Island, not to seaward of a line between the shore on

	Inner Limits	Outer Limits
		Rousay at 59°10.5N 002°57.1W and the shore on Egilsay at 59°10.0N 002°56.4W.
Stromness		To Scapa but not outside Scapa Flow
Scapa Flow		Lines drawn from Point of Cletts on the island of Hoy to Thomson's Hill triangulation point on the island of Fara and thence to Gibraltar Pier on the island of Flotta; from St Vincent Pier on the island of Flotta to the westernmost point of Calf of Flotta; from the easternmost point of the Calf of Flotta to Needle Point on the island of South Ronaldsay and from the Ness on Mainland to Point of Oxan lighthouse on the island of Graemsay and thence to Bu Point on the island of Hoy
OUTER HEBRIDES		
Stornoway Harbour		A line-from Arnish Point to Sandwick Bay Lighthouse, north-west side
The Sound of Scalpay		Not east of Berry Cove (Scalpay) and not west of Croc a Loin (Harris)
North Harbour, Scalpay and Tarbert Harbour		Within one mile from the shore of the Island of Harris
NORTHERN IRELAND		
Strangford Lough		A line from Cloghy Point to Dogtail Point
Belfast Lough		In winter: a line from Holywood to Macedon Point In summer: a line from Carrickfergus to Bangor
Larne		A line from Larne Pier to the ferry pier on Island Magee
River Bann & Lough Neagh		From the Seaward ends of the breakwaters to Toome Bridge
ENGLAND AND WALES		
EAST COAST OF ENGLAND		
Berwick		Within the Breakwaters
Warkworth		Within the Breakwaters
Blyth		Within the Outer Pier Heads
River Tyne	Dunston Staithes	Tyne Pier Heads
River Wear	Fatfield	Sunderland Pier Heads
Seaham		Within the Breakwaters
Hartlepool		A line joining North Pier Head to South Pier Head
River Tees	Tees Barrage	A line extending due West from Government Jetty

	Inner Limits	Outer Limits
Whitby		Within Whitby Pier Heads
Scarborough		Within Scarborough Pier Heads
River Hull	Beverley Beck	River Humber
River Humber	Trent Falls	In winter: a line from New Holland to Paull In summer: a line from Cleethorpes Pier to Patrington Church
Grimsby Dock	Inside the locks	A line from West Pier of the Tidal Basin to the East Pier
Dutch River		The whole canal
River Wharfe	Tadcaster Bridge	River Ouse
River Trent	Cromwell Lock	Trent Falls
River Ouse	Naburn Lock	Trent Falls
Boston	Inside the Lock Gates	Inside the New Cut
Wells Harbour		In summer, a line from the Bink to Holkham Meals Point during daylight hours only.
Blakeney and Morston Harbour and Approaches		To the east of a line running south from Blakeney Point to the entrance of the Stiffkey River
River Orwell and River Stour	From a line drawn from Fagbury Point to Shotley Point on the River Orwell; and from a line drawn north/south through Erwarnton Ness on the River Stour	River Orwell within a line from Blackmanshead breakwater to Landguard Point
River Colne - Colchester	Colchester	In winter: a line from Colne Point to Whitstable In summer: a line from Clacton Pier to Reculvers
River Thames and its Tributaries	Teddington Lock	In winter: a line from Colne Point to Whitstable In summer: a line from Clacton Pier to Reculvers
River Medway and the Swale	Allington Lock	In winter: a line from Colne Point to Whitstable In summer: a line from Clacton Pier to Reculvers
Ramsgate Harbour		Inner Harbour, Royal Harbour and the Turning Basin encompassed by the north and south stone breakwaters
River Blackwater	Maldon	In winter: a line from Colne Point to Whitstable In summer: a line from Clacton Pier to Reculvers
River Crouch and River Roach	Battlebridge & Rochford	In winter: a line from Colne Point to Whitstable In summer: a line from Clacton Pier to Reculvers

	Inner Limits	Outer Limits
River Stour (Kent)	Flagstaff Reach	The mouth of the River
Dover Harbour		Lines drawn across the east and west entrances to the Harbour
River Rother.	Scots Float Sluice and the entrance lock on the River Brede	River Rother above the Tidal Signal Station at Camber
River Ouse (Sussex) Newhaven	the north end of North Quay	A line drawn across Newhaven Harbour entrance piers
Brighton	Brighton Marina inner harbour above the lock	Brighton Marina outer harbour within a line from the southern end of West Quay to the northern end of South Quay
River Adur and Southwick Canal	Southwick Canal Lock and to the west end of Tarmac Wharf	A line drawn across Shoreham Harbour entrance
River Arun	Littlehampton Marina	Littlehampton Pier
Chichester	A line joining Cobnor Point and Chalkdock Point	Inside the Isle of Wight within an area bounded by lines drawn between the church spire, West Wittering, to Trinity Church, Bembridge, to the eastward, and the Needles and Hurst Point to the westward
Langstone Harbour		Inside the Isle of Wight within an area bounded by lines drawn between the church spire, West Wittering, to Trinity Church, Bembridge, to the eastward, and the Needles and Hurst Point to the westward
Portsmouth		Inside the Isle of Wight within an area bounded by lines drawn between the church spire, West Wittering, to Trinity Church, Bembridge, to the eastward, and the Needles and Hurst Point to the westward
Bembridge, Isle of Wight		Inside the Isle of Wight within an area bounded by lines drawn between the church spire, West Wittering, to Trinity Church, Bembridge, to the eastward, and the Needles and Hurst Point to the westward
Cowes, Isle of Wight		Inside the Isle of Wight within an area bounded by lines drawn between the church spire, West Wittering, to Trinity Church, Bembridge, to the eastward, and the Needles and Hurst Point to the westward
Southampton		Inside the Isle of Wight within an area bounded by lines drawn between the church spire, West Wittering, to Trinity Church, Bembridge, to the eastward, and the Needles and Hurst Point to the westward
Beaulieu River		Inside the Isle of Wight within an area bounded by lines drawn between the church spire, West Wittering, to Trinity Church, Bembridge, to the eastward, and the Needles and Hurst Point to the westward

	Inner Limits	Outer Limits
Keyhaven Lake		Inside the Isle of Wight within an area bounded by lines drawn between the church spire, West Wittering, to Trinity Church, Bembridge, to the eastward, and the Needles and Hurst Point to the westward
Poole		Within the line of the Chain Ferry between Sandbanks and South Haven Point
Weymouth		Within Portland Harbour and between the River Wey and Portland Harbour
Weymouth Bay		A line from Redcliff Point to Grove Point
WALES AND WEST OF ENGLAND		
Exeter		An East-West line from Warren Point to the Inshore Lifeboat Station opposite Checkstone Ledge
Bridgwater	Bridgwater	Within the bar
Teignmouth		Within the Harbour
River Dart		A line from Kettle point to Battery Point
Salcombe		A line from Splat Point to Limebury Point
Plymouth		A line from Cawsand to Breakwater to Staddon
Fowey		Inside the Harbour
Falmouth		In winter: a line from St. Anthony Head to Rosemullion In summer: a line from St. Anthony Head to Nare Point
River Camel		A line from Stepper Point to Trebetherick Point
River Severn	Llanthony and Maisemore Weirs	In winter: a line from Blacknore Point to Caldicot Pill, Porstkewett In summer: a line from Barry Dock Pier to Steephholm thence to Brean Down
River Wye	Monmouth	In winter: a line from Blackmore Point to Caldicot Pill, Portskeewett In summer: a line from Barry Dock Pier to Steephholm thence to Brean Down
River Avon (Avon)	Netham Dam	In winter: a line from Blacknore Point to Caldicot Pill, Porstkewett In summer: a line from Barry Pier to Steephholm thence to Brean Down
Newport	Locks at Newport	In winter: overhead power cables crossing at Fifoots Points In summer: a line from Barry Dock Pier to Steephholm thence to Brean Down
Cardiff	Locks at Cardiff	In winter: a line from South Jetty to Penarth Head In summer: a line from Barry Dock Pier to Steephholm thence to Brean Down
Barry		In winter: A line joining the seaward end of the breakwaters In summer: a line from Barry Dock Pier to Steephholm thence to Brean Down

	Inner Limits	Outer Limits
Port Talbot		A line joining the seaward ends of the breakwaters on the River Afran
Neath		A line running due North from the seaward end of Baglan Bay Tanker Jetty (51°37.2'N, 3°50.5'W)
Swansea		A line joining the seaward ends of the breakwaters
Llanelli and Burry Port		An area bounded by a line drawn from Burry Port Western Pier to Whiteford Point
Milford Haven		A line from south Hook Point to Thorn Point
Fishguard		A line joining the seaward ends of the North and East breakwaters
Cardigan		The Narrows at Pen-Yr-Ergyd
Aberystwyth		Within the seaward ends of the breakwaters
Aberdyfi		A line from Aberdyfi Railway Station to Twyni Bach Beacon
Barmouth		A line from Flagstaff at 52° 42.62N 4°3.2W and St John's Church Tower at 52°43.38N and 4°3.2W
Portmadoc		A line from Harlech Point to Graig Ddu
Holyhead		An area bounded by the main breakwater and a line drawn from the head of the breakwater to Brynglas Point, Towyn Bay
Menai Straits		Within the Menai Straits from a line joining Llanddwyn Island Light to Dinas Dinlleu and lines joining the south end of Puffin Island to Trwyn DuPoint and Llanfairfechan Railway Station
Conway		A line from Mussel Hill to Tremlyd Point
Llandudno		Within the breakwater
Rhyl		Within the breakwater
River Dee	Barrelwell Hill water extraction point	In winter: a line from Hilbre Point to Point of Ayr In the summer: a line from Formby Point to Point of Ayr
Rivers Taw and Torridge		A line bearing 200° from the lighthouse on Crow Point to the shore at Skern Point
River Mersey		In winter: A line between Rock Lighthouse and the North West Seaforth Dock In the summer: a line from Formby Point to Point of Ayr
Preston and Southport		A line from Southport to Blackpool inside the banks
Fleetwood		In winter: A line from Low Light to Knott In the summer: a line from Rossal Point to Humphrey Head
River Lune	Glasson Dock	In winter: A line from Sunderland Point to Chapel Hill In the summer: a line from Rossal Point to Humphrey Head

	Inner Limits	Outer Limits
Heysham		In winter: None In the summer: a line from Rossal Point to Humphrey Head
Morecambe		In winter: None In the summer: a line from Rossal Point to Humphrey Head
Barrow		A line joining Haws Point, Isle of Walney to Roa Island Slipway
Whitehaven		Within the breakwater
Workington		A line from Southernness Point to Silloth
Maryport		Within the breakwater
Carlisle		A line joining Point Carlisle to Torduff

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, "summer" means the months of April to October, inclusive, and "winter" means the months of November to March, inclusive.