

Aberdeen Harbour PMSC
Compliance Plan 2018-2020



Port Marine Safety Code

Operational Plan 2018 – 2020

Introduction

The Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) states that: To demonstrate the organisation's commitment to marine safety and to ensure the involvement of harbour users, a safety plan for marine operations should be published at least once every three years. The plan should illustrate how the policies and procedures will be developed to satisfy the requirements under the Code. It should commit the organisation to undertake and regulate marine operations in a way that safeguards the harbour/facility, its users, the public and the environment.

Aberdeen Harbour Board (AHB) provides the guidance as defined by the PMSC through the Marine Safety Management System, risk assessments and procedural documentation.

The Port of Aberdeen operates as a trust port with approx. 20,000 vessel movements occurring within the port environs every year. These movements are overseen by the Harbour Masters department to ensure safety of navigation and compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code. In compliance with the Plan the port has produced a safety plan to give an overview of how we intend to ensure compliance with the code during the period of 2018 – 2020.

AHB recognises that as a harbour authority, it has:

- Statutory and non-statutory duties
- Duties and Obligations to conserve and facilitate the safe use of the harbour and a duty of care to prevent loss or damage cause by the authority's negligence

Organisational Structure

The Harbour Board is made up of 9 non-executive members and 3 executive members. Board members are all given induction training on joining the board on the role of a duty holder in relation to the PMSC. A number of them have also attended workshops on the role of the duty holder which have been organised by the BPA.

The Board have appointed a Seacroft Marine consultant as the Independent Designated Person (DP) under the code. The role of the DP is to provide independent assurance audits with regards to the operation of the Marine Safety Management System (MSMS). To ensure that the MSMS is operating safely and efficiently AHB. The DP provides assurance through the publication of 9 annual review reports on the operation fitness of each section of the MSMS as defined by the PMSC.

The Designated Person reports annually on the following topics to the Harbour Board to show compliance with the PMSC and to contribute to the internal annual reviews of the MSMS, policies and procedures.

1. Consultation - Stakeholder Engagement.
2. MSMS – Risk Assessments.
3. Conservancy.
4. Management of Navigation
 - a. VTS
 - b. Master/ Pilot Exchange
 - c. Traffic Management
 - d. Monitoring and Communication with port traffic
 - e. Harbour Patrols
5. Pilotage.
6. Towage Operations.
7. Marine Services. Harbour Vessels and port interface with Vessels.
8. Qualifications. Competence of Personnel and CPD.
9. Accident Reporting and Investigating.

The management of Marine Operations

AHB has a MSMS in place which is effective to cover the marine operations carried out within the port. This MSMS provides the framework to mitigate the hazards that have been highlighted through risk assessment and are associated with the current operation of the port, and allows the harbour operations to be carried out in line with relevant current legislation and relevant ACOPS

The harbour operates a VTS, Pilotage service and an inhouse Hydrographic and Conservancy department

The MSMS is reviewed at least annually to make sure operational or legislative changes have been incorporated in to the procedures. All relevant staff are consulted and informed of changes to the MSMS to ensure that compliance continues in light of amendments to the document

Aberdeen Harbour uses the 'Hazman' Risk assessment program to maintain the Navigational Risk Assessment register. This allows reviews of the marine risks in order to keep them as low as reasonably practicable. Annual reviews of this system are carried out and all of the RA are reviewed at periodic intervals or when an incident has occurred that has highlighted that there has been a procedural failure.

Information on annual incidents is used to review and amend the risk assessments where required. Hazman also allows specific Risk Assessments to be reviewed after a specific incident

Change in commercial activities will have a gap analysis carried out to ensure that the system is robust enough to encompass new activities, procedures and policies will be revised or developed to extend to new commercial activities.

Aberdeen Harbour is in the process of expanding operations through the construction of an additional port site at Nigg Bay to the South of the existing Harbour. As part of the PMSC Plan structures and plans will be developed to integrate these new facilities safely and efficiently into the existing operations. The Board has committed to making all the relevant resources available to the marine team to make sure that all the requirements of the PMSC are complied with.

Competence Standards

AHB is committed to a program of continual professional development to ensure that the Marine staff are appropriately trained to carry out the duties assigned to them.

GAP training for new commercial activities has been highlighted to ensure that Pilots and VTS have the correct training plan in place to ensure that marine staff have adequate training to carry out their assigned duties.

Accident Investigation

Investigation reporting is detailed within the SMS and all marine and HSE related incidents are reported to the Duty holders and designated persons in the form of a Board report. Serious incidents / accidents will be reported immediately to the duty holders.

Incidents are investigated to determine root cause and to highlight failures within AHB's system. Investigation reports are also used to highlight a requirement to review sections of the MSMS or operational procedures.

Marine incidents are investigated with the senior marine staff taking the lead on investigation with additional resources available from other departments as required.

Incidents are investigated in line with MAIB/ HSE guidance and are reported in line with reporting requirements.

Incident reporting requirements are articulated to stakeholders through information notes

Consultation

AHB is committed to consultation with stakeholders on a regular basis through the following mediums

- Marine Stakeholders meeting every 6 months
- Port safety group meeting every 4 months
- Requested stakeholder meetings
- Staff consultation

- Pilot exemption holder's engagement.
- Third party Project specific consultation

Through all of these measures and the interface between the Duty holder and the port Stakeholders AHB shall strive to not only comply but raise the level of governance within the port and be seen to be at the forefront of implementing the PMSC within the industry and beyond.

Jeff Gaskin

Harbour Master

Aberdeen Harbour Board