

Working Group of Pilotage Advisory Committee

Resumption of Ma Wan Night Transit for Bulker and Tanker

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to seek members' views and comments on the proposed amendments to the Berthing Guidelines (BGL), which stipulates an additional escort tug requirement for bulker and tanker of draft over 9m and length overall (LOA) from 198m to 230m when navigating between Hang Pang and UR2 buoy at night.

Background

2. On 15 January 2010, the Court delivered its verdict for the 'Neftegaz 67' and 'Yao Hai' collision case. Shortly after the conviction of the two pilots concerned, Hong Kong Pilots Association Limited (HKPAL) has suspended Ma Wan night transit for bulker and tanker of LOA from 198m to 230m.

3. The matter was brought up for discussion at Pilotage Advisory Committee Working Group (PAC WG) meeting on 20 January 2010 and the PAC meeting on 4 February 2010. At the meetings, HKPAL expressed that the suspension would be continued until their perceived potential risks to the vessels concerned could be addressed.

Improvement Measures

4. To improve the safety of navigation in north Lantau waters, MD has requested vessels while proceeding along the buoyed channel to keep to the starboard side of it since January 2010. This measure has greatly reduced the head-on encounters within the buoyed channel. Furthermore, MD has also conducted a review on the configuration of the buoyage system in the north Lantau. The preliminary conclusion and recommendation of the review have been shared with HKPA. Further refinement to the marking of the buoyed channel and the passage procedures will be carried out with the involvement of HKPA.

The Proposal

5. In addition to the above measures, HKPA has recently indicated that the Ma Wan night transit for bulker and tanker of draft over 9m and LOA from 198m to 230m could be resumed with the assistance of one escort tug to be provided between Ha Pang and UR2 buoy. It is therefore proposed to include this new requirement in the BGL and the proposed amendments to the relevant BGL are inserted in red at the Annex. According to MD's statistics in 2009, there were on average about 6 concerned vessels transiting Ma Wan at night per month. As some of them were in ballast condition with draft less than 9m, the number of vessels affected by this requirement would be less than 6 per month.

Advice Sought

6. Members are requested to give their views/comments on this matter by completing the reply slip.

Marine Department

May 2010

Location : URMPS/URMA

Transit Mawan – Bulker & Tanker**(All vessels other than passenger & container ship)***LOA≤230m : Restricted transit period @ Mawan = Current Against >2.5 knots / With >1.5 knots**LOA>230m ≤255m : Restricted transit period @ Mawan = Current Against >2.0 knots / With >1.0 knot**LOA>255m : Restricted transit period @ Mawan = Current Against >1.5 knots / With >0.5 knot***(per current info. supplied by HYDRO office)****Transit @ Mawan : Day = (Sunrise – 30mins.) To (Sunset + 30mins.)**

010 **N. bound** LOA: Max 183m
Draft: Max. 12m (min 15% UKC)
Time: 24 hrs.
 Draft>10m subject to current
 condition @ Mawan
Tugs: 1 escort @ Mawan if Draft>10m.
Remarks:

011 **S. bound** LOA: Max 183m
Draft: Max. 12m (min 15% UKC)
Time: 24 hrs.
 Draft>10m subject to current
 condition @ Mawan
Tugs: 1 escort @ Mawan if Draft>10m.
Remarks:

020 **N. bound** LOA: Max 198m
Draft: Max. 12.5m (min 15% UKC)
Time: Subject to current condition @
 Mawan
Tugs: 1 escort for Mawan Transit
 To URMA: +1 @ URMA if
 Draft>10m.
Remarks: Day: 1 pilot
 Night: 2 pilots

021 **S. bound** LOA: Max 198m
Draft: Max. 12.5m (min 15% UKC)
Time: Subject to current condition @
 Mawan
Tugs: 1 escort for Mawan Transit
 From URMA: +1 @ URMA if
 Draft>10m.
Remarks: Day: 1 pilot
 Night: 2 pilots

030 **N. bound** LOA: Max 230m
Draft: Max. 13m (min 15% UKC)
Time: Subject to current condition @
 Mawan
 Draft>12.5m day transit only
Tugs: 1 escort for Mawan transit; **for**
 night transit 1 escort from Kellett
 West to UR 2 buoy if Draft> 9m
 To URMA: +1 @ URMA if
 Draft>10m.
Remarks: 2 pilots.

031 **S. bound** LOA: Max 230m
Draft: Max. 13m (min 15% UKC)
Time: Subject to current condition @
 Mawan
 Draft>12.5m day transit only
Tugs: 1 escort for Mawan transit; **for**
 night transit 1 escort from UR 2
 buoy to Kellett West if Draft> 9m
 From URMA: +1 @ URMA if
 Draft>10m.
Remarks: 2 pilots.

Location : URMPS/URMA

Transit Mawan – Bulker & Tanker
(All vessels other than passenger & container ship)

LOA ≤ 230m : Restricted transit period @ Mawan = Current Against >2.5 knots / With >1.5 knots
LOA >230m ≤ 255m : Restricted transit period @ Mawan = Current Against >2.0 knots / With >1.0 knot
LOA >255m : Restricted transit period @ Mawan = Current Against >1.5 knots / With >0.5 knot
 (per current info. supplied by HYDRO office)
Transit @ Mawan : Day = (Sunrise – 30mins.) To (Sunset + 30mins.)

040 **N. bound** LOA: Max 255m
Draft: Max. 15m (min 15% UKC)
Time: Day light only
 Subject to current condition @ Mawan
Tugs: 1 escort for Mawan Transit; from GI if Draft > 10m.
To URMA: 1 escort for Mawan Transit +1 @ URMA; 1 escort from GI through to URMA if Draft > 10m.
Remarks: 2 pilots.

041 **S. bound** LOA: Max 255m
Draft: Max. 15m (min 15% UKC)
Time: Day light only
 Subject to current condition @ Mawan
Tugs: 1 escort for Mawan Transit.
From URMA: 1 escort Mawan Transit; from URMA if Draft > 10m.
Remarks: 2 pilots.

050 **N. bound** LOA: Max 290m
Draft: Max. 16.8m (min 15% UKC)
Time: Day light only
 Subject to current condition @ Mawan
Tugs: 1 escort from GI for Mawan Transit; +1 @ Mawan if Draft > 14m.
To URMA: 1 escort from GI to URMA; +1 from Mawan to URMA if Draft > 14m.
Remarks: 2 pilots.

051 **S. bound** LOA: Max 290m
Draft: Max. 16.8m (min 15% UKC)
Time: Day light only
 Subject to current condition @ Mawan
Tugs: 1 escort for Mawan Transit; 2 if Draft > 14m.
From URMA: 1 escort from URMA for Mawan Transit; +1 @ Mawan if Draft > 14m.
Remarks: 2 pilots.

General Remarks:

- Thrusters not considered for transit.
- Tidal window current reference point: 22-21.599N 114-04.125E
- **PILOT BOARDING TIME FOR MA WAN TRANSIT:**
 @URMPS, URMA, NC & WITHIN HARBOUR:
 - Draft exceeds 14m or harbour speed less than 11 knots – Mawan transit time minus 1.5 hours;
 - Other ships – Mawan transit time minus 1 hour.
- Bulker or Tanker of LOA > 280m are normally not permitted to lighten or anchor at URMA due to limited space of the anchorage.
- In case of special circumstances and conditions, where a vessel is required to anchor at URMA, she shall obtain prior approval from VTC.
- ~~Escort tug for~~ For Mawan transit, escort tug implies escort is required for the waters area between Kellett West buoy and Ha Pang.