



Associated British Ports - Lowestoft

**No 47
2020**

NOTICE TO MARINERS

LOWESTOFT – NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR VESSELS USING ABP COMMERCIAL BERTHS AND SELF MOORING

This notice is to advise Mariners, Port Users and Vessel Operators of changes in requirements for vessels wishing to self-moor when using ABP Commercial berth areas. For the avoidance of doubt, this requirement applies to any ABP owned and operated berth, but excludes Marinas, and privately owned or leased/operated quay areas within the Lowestoft SHA.

One consideration in implementing these changes, has been a notable increase in Marine Incidents in UK ports, with 3 fatalities in the last 6 years, from 3 separate incidents, directly related to self-mooring activities.

In addition, there has been a rise in observations of unsafe practices by vessels when undertaking self-mooring activities at Lowestoft.

Changes as follows:-

If a vessel using an ABP berth area is not utilising the services of port linesmen, but mooring or un-mooring themselves (self-mooring), then the vessel Master or vessel operator will need to demonstrate to ABP as the Harbour Authority, that they are able to conduct the mooring operation following the 'ALARP' principle, so that the residual risk has been reduced as far as is reasonably practicable. This will need to be supported by an appropriate Risk Assessment to demonstrate that associated risks have been addressed and adequately mitigated. The Harbour Authority will permit self-mooring if it is satisfied that this assessment has been undertaken.

For any vessel that is permitted to self-moor, which is then observed not to be following the requirements of their submitted Risk Assessment, it will be mandatory for that vessel to use port linesmen until they can demonstrate that any non-compliance has been addressed.

For any vessel that has not provided the Harbour Authority with a Risk Assessment to demonstrate that they have properly assessed self-mooring so that it can be conducted in a safe and acceptable manner, it will be mandatory for that vessel to use port linesmen.

These changes will come into effect from **1st January 2021**.

Mariners, Port Users and Vessel Operators are encouraged to provide the Harbour Authority with their relevant Risk Assessment for self-mooring in good time to avoid potential delay and additional costs.

Please contact Lowestoft Port Control, VHF Ch14, Tel. 01502 572286, if additional clarification or information is required.

Divisional Harbour Master East Anglia

17th December 2020

Notices to Mariners Currently in Force: 2006 No.5 2007 No.13 2009 No.19 2011 No.7, No.10, No.19 2012 No.3, 2013 No.17, No.19, 2015 No.24 2016 No.12 2017 No.5, No.22, No.24, No.32, No.34 2018 No.34, 2019 No.2, No.18, No.27 2020 No.1, No.5, No.17, No.24, No.26, No.29, No.40, No.43, No.44, No.45, No.46, No.47
