

## TASMANIAN PORTS CORPORATION

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### *Pilotage Exemption Certificates - Guidance for applicants*

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All vessels greater than 35m in overall length must employ the services of a pilot when navigating within Tasmanian Pilotage Areas.

The **Marine and Safety (Pilotage and Navigation) Regulations 2017** provide for the issue of Pilotage Exemption Certificates (PEC) to approved applicants who meet the requirements outlined in the **Regulations** and **Marine Pilotage Code** (MPC).

The Regulations detail the eligibility requirements and prerequisites for obtaining a Pilot Exemption Certificate. Further requirements for obtaining a PEC are also detailed under the **Marine Pilotage Code**, a copy of which is available on the TasPorts website: [Pilotage Exemption \(tasports.com.au\)](https://tasports.com.au)

*A Pilotage Exemption Certificate (PEC) is specific to both Master and vessel and endorsed for the nominated port(s), area(s), zone(s) or berth(s). Pilotage Exemption Certificates are not transferrable between Masters, vessels or ports and valid for the period as specified on the Pilotage Exemption Certificate.*

#### Tasmanian port pilotage areas:

##### Primary Ports

- Hobart (Zones A, B and C)
- Launceston (Zones D and E)
- Devonport
- Burnie
- Port Latta

##### Secondary Ports

- Coles Bay
- Naracoopa
- Port Arthur
- Port Davey
- Stanley
- Strahan
- Grassy
- Lady Barron
- Spring Bay

#### Eligibility to Apply

*A person is eligible to hold a PEC if they:*

- Hold a valid Australian Certificate of Competency allowing them to command a vessel of the size for which the PEC is being applied; or
- In the case of a foreign registered vessel, hold a valid Certificate of Competency or Certificate of Recognition allowing them to command a vessel of the size for which the PEC is being applied. Such certificate must have been issued by a body that is party to STCW95;
- Hold a valid certificate of medical and mental fitness issued in accordance with the Medical Health and Fitness Order (AMSA medical).

*The PEC process involves several elements, including:*

- Eligibility requirements, including qualifying voyages that may be specific to the vessel and its intended area of operation.
- Examinations, which currently vary across regions and ports and may include a written examination/s, blank chart, oral questions, and practical assessment of knowledge and ability conducted during the qualifying and check trips under the supervision of a TasPorts Marine Pilot.

Pilotage exemption requirements may vary subject to the nature of the vessel's operation, and the vessel length overall (LOA).

## Pilotage Exemption Certificate Process

- 1) Ensure you can meet the certificate of competency and medical requirements. The eligibility requirements for a Pilotage Exemption are detailed under **Part 5.1** of the **Marine Pilotage Code**.
- 2) Notify TasPorts regarding your intent to apply for a Pilot Exemption Certificate by emailing [pilotexemption@tasports.com.au](mailto:pilotexemption@tasports.com.au). A TasPorts representative will advise on the requirements for a particular Port and/or Zone, including to arrange for the issue of any relevant examination documents.
- 3) Meet the eligibility requirements, ref Regulation 15 & Marine Pilotage Code:
  - a) Hold appropriate Certificate of Competency, or other approved experience and qualification.
  - b) Undertake required number and type of voyages with either a TasPorts Marine Pilot, or exempt Master on board the vessel for which the PEC will apply. Voyages to be recorded and endorsed in the approved form.
    - i. *Where a Pilot is required to achieve the qualifying or check trips towards a PEC, a pilotage charge will be incurred, and chargeable to the vessel's account.*
    - ii. *The booking of a Pilot for Check Pilotage is undertaken by submitting a TasPorts **Vessel Movement Advice (VMA)** to **Vessel Traffic Services (VTS)**.*  
**Please note: 72 hours advanced notice must be provided to VTS for Check Pilotage.**
  - c) Hold a valid AMSA 303 certificate of medical fitness (AMSA 232).
- 4) Submit to [pilotexemption@tasports.com.au](mailto:pilotexemption@tasports.com.au), an application for PEC, on the approved form which is available on the TasPorts website: [Pilotage Exemption \(tasports.com.au\)](https://tasports.com.au/Pilotage-Exemption)  
Include the following supporting documentation with the application:
  - a) Copy of Certificate of Competency, or other approved experience and qualifications;
  - b) Copy of AMSA 303 Certificate of Medical Fitness;
  - c) Record of voyages, on the approved Trip Log form.
- 5) Once the application has been assessed as satisfactory, the applicant will be advised by a TasPorts representative, following which time the applicant may arrange for the necessary check pilotage to be undertaken with an appropriate TasPorts Duty Pilot.

- 6) Complete the examination details, in accordance with the **Marine Pilotage Code, Part 6 – Examinations**. Examinations for a Pilotage Exemption Certificate will consist of three parts:
- A written section including completion of a blank chart; and
  - Practical assessment of knowledge and ability normally conducted during the qualifying trips and check pilotage;
  - Oral questions during the practical section and following assessment of the written section.
- 7) On successful completion of the written examinations and blank chart and check pilotage trips, a TasPorts Duty Pilot will assess and approve the issuing of a Pilotage Exemption Certificate.
- 8) For a vessel registered at a port outside Australia, TasPorts must seek written approval from MAST in accordance with **Marine and Safety (Pilotage and Navigation) Regulations 2017 s24** for the issue of a PEC, for the vessel to operate within a Tasmanian Port Pilotage Area.

A vessel under pilotage is to display a Flag “H” of the International Code of Signals between sunrise and sunset. An exempt master who is navigating a vessel by day in a pilotage area must ensure that a white flag at least 2 metres square in size is prominently displayed on the vessel at all times while being so navigated. Vessels should have both flags readily available to facilitate PEC assessment and movements.

The following links are provided to assist you with your preparation:

**Marine and Safety (Pilotage and Navigation) Regulations, 2017**

<https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/>

**Marine Pilotage Code and Pilotage Exemption Forms**

<https://www.tasports.com.au/pilotage-exemption>

**Certificate of Medical Fitness requirements**

The *Medical Health and Fitness Order* requires a Certificate of Medical Fitness in accordance with AMSA 232.

<https://www.amsa.gov.au/forms/medical-examination-report>

Sonic HealthPlus website: <https://www.sonichealthplus.com.au/services/clinical-services/amsa-medicals>

**Vessel Movement Advice and Check Pilotage bookings:**

Submit a **Vessel Movement Advice (VMA)** for Check Pilotage to **Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) Centre**

Email: [VTS@tasports.com.au](mailto:VTS@tasports.com.au)

Phone: **1300 366 742** and follow the prompts

**Pilotage Exemption applications, renewals and enquiries:**

Email: [pilotexemption@tasports.com.au](mailto:pilotexemption@tasports.com.au)

**For a full list of current Schedule of Port Charges visit TasPorts website:**

[Schedule of port charges \(tasports.com.au\)](https://www.tasports.com.au/schedule-of-port-charges)