



BOATMASTER LICENCE



Local Knowledge Endorsement Information for Applicants

January 2014

BOATMASTER LOCAL KNOWLEDGE ENDORSEMENT INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

This guidance has been provided to ensure that you are aware of the relevant safety and navigational information, your knowledge and understanding of which will form part of your assessment for the BML Local Knowledge Endorsement for the Gloucester harbour area. Your assessment will take the form of an oral examination lasting approximately one hour.

You should understand the operational practices within the harbour area, particularly with regard to the movements of commercial vessels transiting the narrow channels of the estuary, and have a sound appreciation of the range of tides and the requirement for careful adjustment of passage time to ensure that sufficient water is available for your operations.

Restricted Local Knowledge Endorsement may be requested if the proposed area of operation is limited to defined parts of the harbour area, e.g. (a) from seaward to the Severn Bridge (including the River Wye to Chepstow) or (b) from seaward to Sharpness Point.

The following sources of information should be studied in depth. The Trustees' office at Sharpness may be contacted for further guidance.

Navigation. You must:

- Be familiar with Admiralty Charts 1166 (River Severn Avonmouth to Sharpness and Hock Cliff) and 1176 (Severn Estuary Steep Holm to Avonmouth)
- Be familiar with the Gloucester Harbour Trustees byelaws (downloadable from the Trustees' website)
- Have a sound knowledge of the shipping and navigational information available through the Trustees' website
- Be familiar with the Trustees' General Directions (downloadable from the Trustees' website)
- Be familiar with sources of tidal information for the harbour area and the effects of datum changes throughout the harbour
- Be familiar with the names and characteristics of the various aids to navigation within the harbour area

Pilotage. You must:

- Understand the criteria which determine the requirement for a vessel to carry a pilot or an exemption certificate holder as set out in the Pilotage Directions (downloadable from the Trustees' website)

Communication. You must:

- Be aware of the communication procedures as described in the Admiralty List of Radio Signals Volume 6
- Be aware of incident reporting procedures and the need to comply.

BOATMASTER LOCAL KNOWLEDGE ENDORSEMENT ORAL EXAMINATION

During examination you will be expected to answer the following questions:

- 1 Define the Gloucester Harbour Trustees' statutory harbour area
- 2 In addition to vessels using Sharpness Docks, where may other commercial vessels transiting the area be bound for?
- 3 Where would you find information regarding shipping movements planned for a particular tide?
- 4 With reference to High Water Sharpness, when and where might you expect to encounter commercial traffic in the harbour?
- 5 Describe the expected route of an inbound vessel bound for Sharpness Dock
- 6 Describe where and at what times speed limits apply in the Gloucester harbour area
- 7 Describe the approximate tidal range for the following at Sharpness Dock
 - (a) Spring tide
 - (b) Neap tide
- 8 Describe where maximum flows are likely to be encountered in the Gloucester harbour?
- 9 Describe any particular considerations to be taken into account when transiting the harbour in a low-powered craft on a Spring tide
- 10 Describe a typical passing manoeuvre involving your vessel and a large commercial vessel within the harbour area
- 11 Describe the positions of, and identify on a chart a variety of aids to navigation
- 12 Describe the criteria for taking a pilot or holding a Pilotage Exemption Certificate within the harbour area
- 13 Describe which radio channels are used by
 - (a) Sharpness radio
 - (b) Bristol VTS
- 14 Describe how you would report an incident or near miss to the Gloucester Harbour Trustees

Further questions may be asked in order to properly assess the knowledge of the applicant.