

Local Notice to Mariners

Number 016 of 2026

01/01/2026

Commercial Shipping Departure Times

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Masters, Shipping Agents, Berth Operators, Stevedores and Allied Services involved in a vessel's departure from the Port of Southampton's Statutory Harbour Authority area are instructed that the advertised ETD is the underway time, not the pilot on a board time.

When booking a vessel's departure time, an allowance should be made for cargo operations to complete in time to allow vessel crews the time to complete pre-departure checks and for stevedores to clear the vessel so that gangways & ramps can be secured for sea.

Officers & Crews should be ready to attend mooring stations in adequate time for sailing at the allocated departure time. Pilots should endeavor to be in attendance 30 minutes before departure to prepare to be underway at the booked departure time. So that "singling up" can commence, Tugs & Mooring gangs should attend at no later than 15 mins before ETD. A vessel with complex mooring arrangements should allow additional time and request allied services arrive earlier, so as to be underway at the correct time.

Vessels failing to achieve their booked departure time may have traffic clearance denied and be issued with the next available traffic slot from VTS. The Assistant Harbour Master (VTS) has this delegated authority on behalf of the Harbour Master Southampton under the powers contained within the Section 52 of the Harbours, Docks and Piers Clauses Act 1847.

**Steven Masters,
Harbour Master**