

Local Notice to Mariners

Number 019 of 2026

01/01/2026

Implementation of Traffic Clearance Procedure by Southampton VTS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, with immediate effect, that Southampton Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) will be implementing a revised traffic clearance procedure in accordance with IALA SS0001 – Service Specification for VTS Traffic Clearance.

Traffic Clearances for Vessels >20m Alongside:

- All vessels >20m berthed within the Southampton SHA will now require a formal traffic clearance from VTS prior to departure.
- VTS Officers will issue clear instructions regarding movement timing and sequencing to ensure safe integration with other commercial traffic.

Note: Vessels departing from an anchorage must call VTS on Ch 12 for traffic information.

Masters, Pilots, and PEC holders must ensure that **no vessel departs from the berth without receiving a traffic clearance from Southampton VTS.**

This change is part of ongoing efforts to enhance navigational safety, improve procedural consistency, and ensure clear communication between VTS and port users.

**Steven Masters,
Harbour Master**