

Local Notice to Mariners

Number 10 of 2026

01/01/2026

Request to Carry Out Commercial Operations Involving Diving and Swimming

1. **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that all Masters, Agents and Contractors must ensure that a Permission to Dive Form or Swimming Request Form is submitted and approved by Southampton VTS prior to commencing any commercial operation.
2. This applies to any area within ABP Southampton's Statutory Harbour Authority.
3. All operations involving commercial divers must meet the requirements of the Diving at Work Regulations and appropriate Approved Codes of Practice.
4. The Diving and Swimming Request forms are a notification of intended works for the purpose of deconflicting marine activities.
5. All operations involving commercial divers must always have a safety/support boat present to ensure the safety of the divers and maintain efficient communication with Southampton VTS.
6. In all cases, communications on VHF Channel 12 must be in place and must be checked with Southampton VTS before operations commence. A constant listening watch must be maintained throughout all stages of the operation.
7. For the purpose of this Notice a 'swimmer' is defined as a person who enters the water to undertake a commercial operation within the Port area and who is not subject to the requirements of Diving at Work Regulations.
8. Breath Hold Diving and Self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (**SCUBA**) Diving are not permitted.
9. All Masters, Contractors and Agents must ensure that a formal Safe System of Work, with appropriate Risk Assessments, is submitted with a request to Southampton VTS prior to commencing any commercial operation.
10. As a minimum, issues to be considered within the Risk Assessments are to include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Scope of the task
 - b. Team size – sufficient, qualified, competent, prepared etc.
 - c. Equipment involved – wet suit or coveralls, foot protection, gloves, head protection, harness, lifeline, weight belt, knife, light, tools for the job etc.
 - d. Operational elements – daylight only, access to the water, environmental effects, visibility, lookout, radio checks etc.
 - e. Emergency measures – standby swimmer, recovery of injured personnel, availability of rescue craft, nearest landing point, nearest medical facility, road transport availability etc

Steven Masters
Harbour Master