

Pilot Exemption Regulations and Requirements

Information Pack

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Pilot Exemption Regulations and Requirements

The National Ports Act

According to the National Ports Act, 12 of 2005, Section 80 (2) the Authority may, with the approval of the Minister, by notice in the Gazette, make rules for the control and management of ports and the approaches thereto and for the maintenance of safety and good order in ports.

Part F of the Port Rules for the port of Durban states that, pilotage is compulsory unless exemption is granted.

1. Pilotage is compulsory for every vessel entering, departing from or moving within a port.
2. If the Harbour Master is satisfied that the master of a vessel is competent to navigate the vessel safely within the port limits without assistance of a pilot, then the Harbour Master may:
 - a. Grant permission in writing to the master to navigate the vessel without the assistance of a pilot on a specified occasion.
 - b. Grant the master standing permission in the form of a pilotage exemption license to navigate the vessel without the assistance of a pilot during the period of validity of the license.
3. The Harbour Master may suspend or cancel a pilotage exemption license if it is in the interest of safety, security, good order and the protection of the environment.

SCHEDULE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GRANTING OF A PILOT EXEMPTION LICENSE FOR THE PORT OF DURBAN

Pilot Exemption License – is for a commercial craft over 25 Gross Tons and less than 70m.

Before examination, the candidates must:

1. Be in possession of a valid Certificate of Competency (SAMSA), which state commercial craft operation, type of commercial craft and area of operation.
Or
A Certificate of Competency as a Master Coastal
Or
A Certificate of Competency as a Master Port Operation.
Or
A Certificate of Competency as a Skipper Port Operations.
2. Be in possession of a valid Eyesight Certificate from SAMSA valid for one Year.
3. Be in possession of a valid VHF Radio Certificate or GMDSS Certificate.
4. Be in possession of the Port Rules and abide by them and the list of port signals, light, shapes and buoys and abide by them. (Copies are available at the Harbour Revenue.)
5. Produce some form of identification by means of ID Book or Passport.
6. Have previously entered and departed the Port of Durban, at least 5 times both ways aboard a vessel. Dates, times and name of master and vessel at the time, to be produced.
7. Particulars of the craft that the individual will be operating.
8. Have the knowledge of the subjects outlined in the four sections on page 6 of this schedule.

If one holds a certificate of competency as a Skipper Port Operation, one will be Pilot Exempted for a vessel less than 200 Gross Tons.

Note that the Harbour Pilots are the examiners for the Pilot Exemption License. They do not however issue this License.

Pilot Exemption Licenses are issued by the Revenue Office, situated on the 1st floor at Bay Terrace on the presentation of:

1. Proof that they have passed the examination of the license with the Harbour Pilots.
2. Proof of Identity.
3. Payment of the required fee.

Holders of the Pilot Exemption License must be prepared to undergo re-examination at any time if required to do so by the Harbour Master.

Note that if the holder of a Pilot Exemption License allows their license to lapse by not applying for the annual renewal, the individual will be re-examined on their next application for the license. Application for the renewal must be made at the Revenue Office from the 1st of April of each year. Pilot Exemption Licenses expire on 30 April. The documents enumerated in points 1 to 7 on page 2 must be produced. Note that the Eyesight Certificate must not have expired by the date of currency of the renewal.

Pilot Exemption License

Port of Durban

Knowledge Required

This may be grouped into 4 sections:

Section 1

- a. The Rules of Conduct for License Holders. (See Annex 1)
- b. Sections of the International Regulations For The Prevention Of Collision At Sea (1977)

Section 2

- a. An adequate knowledge of the navigational lights, navigation marks and buoys in the Port of Durban. (See Annex 2)
- b. Traffic signals for the Port of Durban.

Section 3

- a. An adequate working knowledge of Chart SAN 1031 with reference to courses, depths, berth names and dangers.
- b. Prohibited anchorage areas.

Section 4

- a. An adequate knowledge of the handling characteristics and limitations of the candidate's vessel.
- b. Must be competent in the use of RADAR.

Annexure 1

Rules of Conduct for Pilotage Exemption Holders for the Port of Durban

1. Port Control must be contacted prior to a vessel entering, departing or shifting berth. Instructions will then be given to the vessel concerned, and the vessel may then do as instructed.
2. It is of the utmost importance that all vessels navigate in the harbour area KEEP AN EFFICIENT RADIO WATCH ON CHANNEL 9 & 16 VHF AT ALL TIMES AND REPLY IMMEDIATELY TO PORT CONTROL SHOULD THEY BE CALLED. This ruling will be strictly enforced. Also be aware that Pilots working channels are 68; 69; 71; 73 and 74. The helicopter's is 13 and the Repair Docks are on 11.
3. All Pilot Exempted vessels shall keep well clear of all vessels under Pilotage, approaching or leaving the Pilotage area and/or the channel, especially deep drafted vessels. Vessels maneuvering in the harbour and with tugs in assistance are to be given a wide berth.
4. Vessels may not lay stopped or drop anchor in the channels and must exercise their right of transit of the channel as expeditiously as possible.
5. A vessel entering or leaving any dock, must keep to the starboard side of the entrance.
6. All vessels are to proceed at a reduced speed in the harbour, especially when in the vicinity of tugs that are assisting vessels and when passing bunkering vessels.
7. A vessel shall not anchor or moor in any position in the harbour unless given permission to do so was received from Port Control.
8. All vessels with Pilotage Exemption must be piloted by the person holding a valid exemption for that vessel.
9. In the event of an accident / incident within the port limits, the Master shall do the following:
 - a. Immediately report the event via channel 9 to Port Control, as well as
 - b. within 24 hours report the event, in writing to the Harbour Master and SAMSA as required by the Merchant Shipping Act.
10. The license is subjected to yearly renewal and the following conditions shall apply:
 - a. The Harbour Master reserves the right to re-examine the holder of the license as he deems necessary.
 - b. The Harbour Master reserves the right to suspend the license.
 - c. The holder is to be re-examined every 5 years.
 - d. Should the holder of a Pilot Exemption License allow their license to lapse by not applying for the annual renewal, the license will deem to expire and the individual will be re-examined on their next application for the license.
 - e. Application for the renewal must be made at the Revenue Office before the anniversary date.

Annexure 2

Port of Durban

List of Port Signals, Lghts, Shapes, Buoys, etc.

BUOYS OFF EAST CORNER SALISBURY ISLAND	Flashing Green every 2 seconds
EAST CORNER OF T-JETTY	Flashing Green every 1.5 seconds
WEST CORNER	Quick Flash White
EAST CORNER OF PIER 1	Flashing Red every 3 seconds
WEST CORNER OFF PIER 1	Flashing White every 3 seconds
PORT HAND ESPLANADE CHANNEL	Flashing Red, 1 every 2 seconds
STARBOARD HAND ESPLANADE CHANNEL	Flashing Green, 1 every 2 seconds
EAST CORNER OF PIER 2	Flashing 2 Red, every 3 seconds
BUOY CLOSE ON N.E. BUOY OF NO.1 MOORING	Quick Flash White
TUG JETTY	Flashing 2 Green every 5 seconds
SMALL CRAFT BASIN SOUTH BREAKWATER	Flashing 2 Red, every 5 seconds
BUOY R1	Flashing Red, every 2 seconds
<p>GALE WARNING</p> <p>Flashing Amber on the Millennium Tower</p>	
<p>DAY AND NIGHT SIGNALS ON THE MILLENNIUM TOWER</p> <p>Red Light - Vessel Leaving Port Green Light - Vessel Entering Port Flashing Red Light - Port Closed</p>	
<p>DAY SIGNALS ON THE MILLENNIUM TOWER IN THE EVENT OF A POWER FAILURE OR MAINTENANCE WORK</p> <p>Flag HOTEL - Vessel Leaving Port Flag INDIA - Vessel Entering Port Flag PAPPa - Port Closed</p>	

Dredgers

During the day **Dredgers** will show two balls hoisted vertically on the side which is dangerous to pass. At night two vertically displayed red lights on the side which is dangerous to pass. (Do not pass on this side)

Two diamonds hoisted vertically on the side that is safe to pass. At night two vertically displayed green lights on the side which is safe to pass. (Pass on this side)

A vessel restricted in its ability to maneuver will hoist three black shapes in a vertical line and highest and lowest will be balls and the middle one a diamond. At night, three lights in a vertical line of which the highest and lowest will be red and the middle will be white

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE CRAFT CATEGORIES

- A: Craft operating more than 40 nautical miles from the shore.
- B: Craft operating more than 15, but not more than 40 nautical miles from the shore.
- C: Craft operating more than 5, but not more than 15 nautical miles from the shore.
- D: Craft operating more than 1, but not more than 5 nautical miles from the shore.
- E: Craft operating not more than 1 nautical miles from the shore.
- R: Craft operating within the confines of the harbour.