

Maritime Pilots

Who or what is a pilot?

The following definition was established by the Merchant Shipping Act 1894 which states that: ***"Pilot means any person not belonging to a ship who has the conduct thereof."***

What does a pilot do?

Basically the pilot is a seafarer who has detailed knowledge of a port approach or dangerous navigational area, expertise in ship manoeuvring and who uses that knowledge to ensure the safe passage of a vessel within the pilotage district.

What is the difference between a Captain and a pilot?

The Captain (Master) always has command of the ship and thus has ultimate responsibility for the safety of the ship, its cargo and crew. The pilot in the UK has the legal conduct of the ship in the pilotage district and upon boarding a vessel provides a passage plan for the transit and directs the course and speed of the vessel to execute the passage plan.

Types of employment

Every port in the UK is individually responsible for deciding which ships are to be subject to compulsory pilotage. Pilots fall into several categories but the following represent the main groups:

- Directly employed by the port.

- Self-employed and contracted to provide the pilotage service to a port.

- State employees.



If you want to know more, please scan the two-dimension code.

