



ENGLAND - EAST COAST  
BLYTH  
ADMIRALTY CHART NO 1626

# NOTICE TO MARINERS No. 07-2026

## GENERAL NOTICE TO ALL VESSELS

Vessel Arrival / Departure Safety Procedures Guidance

**OWNERS, SHIPS AGENTS & MASTERS** are advised that Commercial Cargo vessels are required as part of IMO SOLAS Regulations, the Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seafarers & the Port Marine Safety Code Guide to Good Practice to comply with the following safety directions.

### **SOLAS Reg V/23 – Pilot Transfer Arrangements:**

This is a mandatory requirement on ship Owners; Ship Masters & Crew to provide the safe means of embarkation & disembarkation for marine Pilots.

Following continued widespread industry non-compliance regarding the provision of correct boarding arrangements it has been advised by the MCA & other industry bodies that verification of correct Pilot transfer arrangements is received prior to Pilot embarkation/disembarkation.

As such the Port of Blyth has introduced the requirement for a verbal declaration of compliance regarding SOLAS V/23 on arrival at the Pilot station or on notice of departure that the Pilot ladder used is of approved SOLAS design and is correctly rigged as per the regulations.

If any reasonable doubt exists regarding the safety of Pilot transfer arrangements the Pilot will not board until the correct transfer arrangements are in place.

Any non-compliant ladder/Pilot transfer arrangement shall be reported to the MCA Maritime Safety Dept.

### **Dangerously Weighted Heaving Lines:**

An industry wide safety initiative is under way to remove/outlaw the non-compliant practice of using dangerously weighted heaving lines following numerous incidents and injuries to Tug crews and Port linesmen.

Heaving lines should utilise a 'soft' monkey's fist or other approved means of passing a heaving line, other weighted forms of heaving line are to be avoided.

Reports of dangerously weighted heaving lines will be recorded and passed to the MCA Maritime Safety Dept as necessary.

Agents are advised where practicable to pass this direction/guidance to vessels operating under their agency with the aim of raising awareness of unsafe practice and enhancing marine safety.

As stated in the above directions any non-compliant/unsafe practice will be reported to the Maritime & Coastguard Agency and where necessary, further action may be brought by the regulatory agencies.

**Please contact Blyth Port Control for the latest information:**

Vhf: Ch. 12

Tel: 01670 357020

Email: [marine@portofblyth.co.uk](mailto:marine@portofblyth.co.uk)

**Edwin Dick**

Harbour Master

06/01/2026