



Agents Notification

No. 05 of 2021 – 24th October 2021

Subject: Vessels of Unusual Design and/or with Protruding Objects

**To: RAK Ports Marine Agents
Ship-owners / Masters**

Cc: RAK Ports Management

This notice is issued to draw your particular attention to the need for advance notification to port authority regarding vessels of unusual design and/or with protruding objects and/or damage or deformed in any way.

Owners and Masters of vessels as above, are obligated to make previous notification to the shipping Agent and furnish all relevant information, who in turn is obligated to inform Port Authority in good time, but generally not less than seven days before ETA or ETD.

Such information will enable port authority to evaluate the manoeuvrability and navigation capabilities of a particular vessel. Port Authority will then determine if there is a requirement for special planning; and then, following but not limited to, will have to be accomplished no later than 72 hours before ETA/ETD:

- Detailed information regarding vessel design, objects and protrusion, dimensions, propulsion, including rudder details and thrusters, expected draft, weather parameters, speed limits, manoeuvring methods, abort and contingency plans.
- Submission of a method statement.
- Full or dynamic risk assessment.
- In case of damaged vessels - a condition survey and buoyance report.
- Pre-scheduling meeting with relevant parties.
- Scheduling and passage planning.
- Toolbox talk, prior to arrival / departure of the vessel.
- Towage and pilotage requirement, weather conditions – prevailing and forecast.

Vessel of unusual design, damaged and/or with protruding objects may be permitted to transit, on a case-by-case basis, provided that such vessel will not endanger safe navigation or interfere with berth structure, equipment, and/or operation, or present a hazard to port approach channel or harbour.

Advance information will minimise the possibility that transit may be delayed nor denied. However, please note that Harbour Master will have full discretion whether to permit the transit.

Please note, in addition to the above, the Master of any vessel / combinations intending to call to Port, should inform the Port Control and Pilot in advance of any special conditions, difficulties or peculiarities present in the vessel including any deficiencies to the navigation, mooring and propulsion equipment.

The deficiency shall be advised to the Port Control directly on relevant VHF channel at the first opportunity. In any case, the Master shall also notify the shipping Agent of the same.

Note:

- Owners/Agents are not permitted to bring a vessel or its cargo in a condition which may endanger safety or navigation in the port areas or pose a risk to the environment of the port, until such dangers and risks are eliminated.
- Objects may protrude over the sides of a ship only to an extent that will not obstruct or endanger traffic and other port operations and cause damage to port infrastructure/installations.
- The vessel owner/Master shall be solely responsible for damage to their vessel, or third-party damage arising from vessel transit or stay in the port.

Capt. Emad Hashem

Deputy Harbour Master, RAK Ports

Status of previously published notices:

2020: 01, 02, 04, 05

2021: 01, 02, 03, 04