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STANDING NOTICE TO MARINERS

Perth Harbour

Diving Operations

Commercial Diving Operations carried out in harbours and other areas within the jurisdiction of Perth Harbour are conducted in strict compliance with the “Diving at Work Regulations 1997” (DWR) and Approved Code of Practice for Commercial Diving Projects Inland/ Inshore L104 (Second edition).

Perth Harbour operated by Calmac Ferries Limited (CFL) recognises its responsibility and legal duty under the DWR to take reasonable measures to ensure the health and safety of persons engaged in commercial diving operations that it commissions, or are conducted in harbours it operates.

Diving Contractors and the clients of commercial divers are reminded that under Regulation 4 of the DWR 1997, Harbour Authorities have a general responsibility to take reasonable measures to ensure that commercial diving operations within their jurisdiction are undertaken safely and in accordance with the regulations;

‘Every person who to any extent is responsible for, has control over or is engaged in a diving project or whose acts or omissions could adversely affect the health and safety of persons engaged in such a project, shall take such measures as it is reasonable for a person in his position to take to ensure that these Regulations are complied with.’

CFL have produced a ‘Statement of minimum commercial diving standards for CFL harbours’ that sets out the mandatory minimum standards for such diving projects and describes the standards with which all Commercial Diving Contractors engaged by the company or contracted by others for dives undertaken within the jurisdiction of the company must comply. All the requirements in this document are mandatory unless specifically noted otherwise.

Diving contractors should note that the CFL document is subject to change from time to time and that they are responsible to ensure they have a current copy and are compliant with its requirements. A copy may be obtained by writing to Head of Harbours, David MacBrayne Limited, Ferry Terminal, Gourrock, PA19 1QP or from any staffed harbour operated by the company.

Under Regulation 8 of the 1997 regulations, the diving contractor is responsible for ensuring that a risk assessment is carried out and a diving project plan is prepared. The risk 1 / 3 assessments must identify and address site specific hazards and their risks. During this process the Diving Contractor will determine the appropriate diving methods and equipment to be used.

When planning a dive project within these locations the Diving Contractor must consult with the Harbour Manager, and if applicable the representative of any other organisation having temporary control of the site, before permission to dive can be granted.

The consultation must be undertaken no less than 4-days prior to commencement of the planned dive project to allow sufficient time for the Harbour Manager, where applicable, any other organisation's representative to review the documentation and advise on any procedures or arrangements that must be complied with and where appropriate agree any additional measures deemed necessary, such as publishing a Notice to Mariners.

In order to comply with the DWR, all commercial inshore diving operations in harbours within the Perth Harbour limits of jurisdiction must have the appropriate "Permit to Dive" issued by the representative of the organisation having control of the site prior to commencing any dive operation. In most instances this will be the local CFL harbour operator. The Dive Contractor also requires the permission of the harbour operator before any diving commences and they must also be informed when diving is concluded.

Dive Contractors are reminded that Harbour Authorities are required to report instances of noncompliance of the Regulations initially to the client of the Diving Contractor and ultimately, to the Health & Safety Executive.

RECREATIONAL DIVING

Health & Safety legislation does not extend to the private individual diving for recreational purposes however, recreational diving will generally only fall within the DWR 1997 when an instructor is being employed to dive in order to teach students, or where an appropriately qualified diver is employed to guide a dive party. Recreational diving is not permitted within the Harbour Basin or navigation channel.

Harbour Manager

Perth Harbour (operated by CFL Harbours)