

Low Risk Vessel Pilot Exemption

Tasports offers pilot exemptions for low risk vessels calling at declared pilotage areas in Tasmania.

In order to be eligible for the exemption, a vessel must be:

- **Between 35 and 75 metres LOA**
- **Not carrying more than twelve (12) passengers**
- **Not a cargo carrying vessel**
- **Not engaged in towing operations**
- **Not a vessel that has a normal operating speed greater than 25 knots**

The process for obtaining this exemption is detailed in the procedure below.

Procedure

During the initial pilotage at a primary port the pilot will:

- a. Assess the Master on local knowledge of the ports to be visited
- b. Assess the vessel in terms of navigation equipment
- c. Provide the Master with relevant information such as passage plans, anchoring positions and general port information

On completion of the assessment the pilot will make a recommendation to the Harbour Master for the issue of an exemption certificate with an appropriate list of conditions.

Please note: An exemption from pilotage for a vessel between 51m and 75m LOA will not apply to the principal ports of Hobart (Zones A and B), Bell Bay (Zones D and E), Devonport or Burnie.

Application for an Exemption

For a vessel to be considered for an exemption from the requirements to employ a pilot the following shall apply:

- a. A Tasports Vessel Movement Advice (VMA) has been fully completed and received 2 weeks prior to intended arrival at the first primary Tasmanian port (primary ports are: Hobart, Bell Bay, Devonport Burnie, Triabunna and Port Latta)
[Click here to access the VMA form](#)
- b. The vessels proposed schedule is included with the Vessel Movement Advice, detailing ports and anchorages it is intended to visit

- c. Provide an outline of the master's experience, assessed during the initial pilotage, together with information on the vessels navigation systems, including the latest, corrected, smallest scale chart (or electronic equivalent) for the pilotage areas
- d. Complete an application on the Pilot License and Pilotage Exemption Application form
[Click here to access the Pilot License and Pilotage Exemption Application form](#)
- e. Present a valid Certificate of Competency for the size of vessel being exempted
- f. Provide evidence of current medical fitness to a standard specified in the Medical Health and Fitness Order or other medical certificate acceptable to MAST

List of Potential Conditions

Any or all of the following conditions may apply to an exemption issued to low risk vessels.

- a. Tasports and MAST reserve the right to cancel the permit at any time should there be any event which may jeopardizes the safety of navigation within the port***
- b. Exemptions will apply for a period of 3 calendar months from the date of issue and be specific to the vessel and master exercising the exemption***
- c. The vessel must advise Port Control by VHF or Telephone prior to intended movements***
- d. The vessel has onboard the latest and most detailed scale Australian charts of the intended pilotage areas (electronic version acceptable)***
- e. No navigation within the port areas shall be undertaken without proper passage planning. All passage plans should ensure;***
 - a. A minimum under keel clearance of 1.6m is maintained at all times***
 - b. Minimum clearing distances from all navigational hazards are clearly identified and maintained during the passage, in accordance with the observance of good seamanship***
- f. The vessel remains under the command of the master exercising the exemption***
- g. When operating in specific pilotage zones;***
 - a. The Tasports passage plan is followed where practicable***
 - b. Anchorages may be identified (see Annex 2 for further information)***
 - c. Navigational times may be restricted***
- h. Any other restrictions or conditions that are deemed appropriate***
- i. All accidents and incidents must be reported to Tasports port control***