

Tasman Bridge Towing Permit Procedure

PROCEDURE

Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to describe the issue and control of towing permits for vessels under 35m LOA towing barges or fish pens within the Hobart pilotage area, including the Tasman Bridge.

Scope

This procedure applies to vessels under 35m LOA towing fish pens, barges or other vessels, where the **combined** vessel length is in excess of 35 metres, operating within the Hobart pilotage area, including the Tasman Bridge.

This procedure is not applicable to port tug operations associated with vessels moving under pilotage.

Reference Documents

1. Marine and Safety (Pilotage and Navigation) Regulations 2017.
2. Towing permit - see attached

Definitions

1. **Length of Tow** means length of towing vessel + towline + vessel or net being towed
2. **LOA** - Length Over All
3. **VTS** – Vessel Traffic Services
4. **Combined vessel length** - The length of towing vessel + length of the vessel being towed. (Excluding the towline).

Permit Applications

Applicants for a towing permit must include the following:

- a. Written evidence of 4 trips, within the last twelve months, in each of the zones where a permit is required.
- b. Copy of master's certificate
- c. Copy of master's medical certificate

Applications must be made in writing to Tasports Harbour Master.

Applicants will be required to complete an oral local knowledge test with a local Pilot.

Fish Pen Towing Requirements

- Tows must be shortened prior to entering Hobart Zones A and B
- The length of tow (towing vessel + tow lines + vessel or pens) must not exceed 150 metres in length in zones A and B.
- The master must report to VTS prior to entering and leaving a pilotage area.
- The master must maintain a listening watch on VHF channel 12 whilst within a pilotage area.
- Contact Tasports VTS when approaching the Tasman Bridge and report when clear of the bridge.
- The tow vessel must be less than 35 metres LOA. If not, evidence of a current pilot exemption certificate must be submitted or the engagement of a pilot is required.
- Passage must be through the main navigation span.
- Tows within zones A and B must only be undertaken in daylight.
- Tows through the bridge cannot proceed if:
 - a. Wind is over 25 knots
 - b. Current is greater than 1 knot (reading obtained from Tasports VTS)
 - c. Visibility is less than 1,000 m
 - d. If a tow is waiting on weather south of the Tasman Bridge it must not proceed north passed an imaginary line from Macquarie 3 Wharf to the west and Rosny Point in East.
 - e. If a tow is waiting on weather north of the Tasman Bridge it must not proceed south passed an imaginary line from Cornelian Bay Point to the west and Lindisfarne Point in East.
- To retain permit currency, masters must undertake a trip in the zone to which the permit applies at intervals not exceeding six (6) months, otherwise the permit will be cancelled.
- Permits will be valid for two (2) years.

Permit Renewals

- Applicants must provide:
 - A current medical certificate
 - Written evidence of trips
 - Copy of certificate of competency

Barge Towing Requirements

- The towing vessel must not exceed 35 metres LOA, if not, evidence of a current pilot exemption certificate must be submitted or the engagement of a pilot is required.
- The length of the tow must not exceed 110 metres.
- The master must report to Hobart VTS prior to entering a pilotage area.
- The master must maintain a listening watch on VHF channel 12 whilst within a pilotage area.
- Tows must be shortened prior to entering Hobart Zones A and B
- Tows within zones A and B must only be undertaken in daylight.
- Tows through the bridge cannot proceed if:
 - a. Wind is over 25 knots
 - b. Current is greater than 1 knot (reading obtained from Tasports VTS)
 - c. Visibility is less than 1,000 m
 - d. If a tow is waiting on weather south of the Tasman Bridge it must not proceed north passed an imaginary line from Macquarie 3 Wharf to the west and Rosny Point in East.
 - e. If a tow is waiting on weather north of the Tasman Bridge it must not proceed south passed an imaginary line from Cornelian Bay Point to the west and Lindisfarne Point in East.
- To retain permit currency, masters must undertake a trip in the zone to which the permit applies at intervals not exceeding six (6) months, otherwise the permit will be cancelled.
- Permits will be valid for two (2) years.

Permit Renewals

- Applicants must provide:
 - A current medical certificate
 - Written evidence of trips
 - Copy of certificate of competency



Certificate No

TOWING PERMIT

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

In accordance with Regulation 63 (1) of the Marine and Safety (Pilotage and Navigation) Regulations 2017, is permitted to tow empty fish pens of any size or other vessels of less than 35 metres LOA within Zones A, B & C of the port of Hobart including transiting the Tasman Bridge.

This Certificate is subject to the conditions set out below and is valid until

CONDITIONS:

1. The length of the towing vessel must not exceed 35m (dependant on qualification) LOA.
2. Tows must be shortened prior to entering Hobart Zones A and B
3. The length of tow (tow vessel + tow lines + fish pens) must not exceed 150 metres in length in zones A and B

OR

The length of tow (tow vessel + tow lines + barge) must not exceed 110 metres in length in zones A and B

4. The master must report to Hobart VTS prior to entering and leaving a pilotage area.
5. The master must maintain a listening watch on VHF channel 12 whilst within a pilotage area.
6. Contact Hobart VTS when approaching the Tasman Bridge and report when clear of the bridge.
7. Tows within zones A and B must only be undertaken in **daylight only**.
8. Tows through the bridge cannot proceed if:
 - a. Wind is over 25 knots
 - b. Current is greater than 1 knot (reading obtained from Hobart VTS)
 - c. If visibility is less than 1,000 m
9. The holder must hold a valid certificate of competency.
10. If the holder has not navigated the above zones as master of a vessel, to which this permit applies, for a period of six months, this permit lapses until the holder has passed any examination determined by Tasports.
11. If the holder has not navigated the above zones as master of a vessel, to which this permit applies, for a period of twelve months, this permit is cancelled.

Issued by

on

Harbour Master

Signature of Holder