

**WISBECH PORT AUTHORITY**  
**SAFETY PLAN FOR MARINE OPERATIONS**  
**Issue 2 January 2019**

## **1.0 Introduction**

Wisbech Ports Authority (WPA) is the Statutory Harbour Authority (SHA) for the approaches to the River Nene and the Competent Harbour Authority (CHA) for the waters of the Nene Ports Pilotage Area.

The Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) published in March 2000 by the Department of Transport, with further revisions in October 2009, March 2015, and February 2017 has established an agreed national standard for port marine safety and a measure by which harbour authorities can be held accountable for their legal powers and duties to run their harbours in a safe manner.

As part of its compliance with the requirements of the PMSC, WPA is publishing the following Safety Plan for Marine Operations for a period of (2019-2021).

A more comprehensive overview of the structure, management and maintenance of safety of navigation and marine operations plus WPA's compliance with the PMSC in support of this Plan, is contained in the WPA's Marine Safety Management System (MSMS).

## **2.0 Marine Policies and Procedures**

WPA will comply with all legal requirements and aims to develop and implement an active safety culture at the heart of its MSMS in order to meet the national requirements of the PMSC and to heed the guidance in the accompanying "A Guide to Good Practice on Port Marine Operations"

Marine policies, operational procedures, processes and guidance in support of WPA's navigational services and marine operations are developed and maintained on a continuous improvement cycle of safety performance underpinned by a rigorous risk analysis process. All procedures contained in the WPA MSMS reviewed on a regular basis.

## **3.0 The Management of Marine Operations**

This Safety Plan for Marine Operations commits WPA to undertaking the management and regulation of marine operations within the scope of its powers

and authority in a way that safeguards the port, its users, the public and the environment.

WPA is committed to work proactively towards a positive safety culture and to enhance its risk-based MSMS on a framework for continuous improvement of safety performance.

WPA will undertake its role and responsibilities to provide efficient services and effective regulation of shipping in support of all activities in the harbour; in particular commercial vessel movements, to facilitate the safe transit of vessels through the port.

In ensuring the continued provision of services, WPA will always keep the safety of its personnel, river/port users and vessels as a paramount priority. At times this may impact on continuity of services and consequently on vessel movements or activities being subjected to delay. However, commercial considerations will be secondary to the safety of navigation.

#### **4.0 The Safety Plan Objectives**

WPA marine safety goals, policies and procedures are sustained by the following specific objectives:

- WPA will keep under review its powers and duties in order to ensure it can best regulate and *conserve safe navigation within its area of jurisdiction (as SHA and CHA)*;
- WPA's marine safety management system will be maintained on the basis of a comprehensive risk analysis process and a framework for continuous improvement of safety performance;
- Dedicated risk assessments of new and existing marine operations and services, as required;
- The proactive and reactive review of identified hazards to navigation and the associated risk control measures that mitigate those risks to as low as reasonably practical level (ALARP);
- All aids to navigation will be maintained to meet the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) standards and report as required to the General Lighthouse Authority through the on line Aids to Navigation reporting system.
- WPA shall continue to liaise with, and seek the appropriate input from stakeholders with relevant interests in marine operations with the mutual aim of providing and maintaining marine safety at the Port of Wisbech and Port of Sutton Bridge and its approaches;

- Undertaking annual audits by the Designated Person (DP) of the MSMS, its functions and procedures;
- WPA will action or implement in a timely manner any deficiencies or safety enhancements identified through the audit process;
- The monitoring, inspection and review requirements documented in the WPA MSMS will be implemented as appropriate by the Harbour Master;
- Comprehensive training and continuing professional development for marine department personnel with responsibilities for the safety of navigation will be maintained;
- The maintenance and exercising of the WPA marine emergency plans and procedures, including oil spill contingency and business continuity plans;
- WPA will formally review and publish its plans and policies for marine operations at intervals not exceeding 3 years.
- WPA will publish a report on its performance against the objectives of this safety plan for marine operations on an annually basis.