PORTLAND HARBOUR AUTHORITY LIMITED

By virtue of section 16 of the Portland Harbour Revision Order 1997
Portland Harbour Authority Limited as the Harbour Authority
gives the following Direction:

GENERAL DIRECTION

No 2 of 2025

ANNUAL REGISTRATION OF SMALL COMMERCIAL CRAFT

1. For the purpose of promoting or securing conditions conducive to the ease, convenience or safety of navigation and the safety of persons and property within harbour limits, Portland Harbour Authority seek to ensure that all commercial craft operating within the limits of Portland Harbour are properly maintained, equipped and manned and used only for purposes for which they are capable.

   Therefore, with **effect from June 1st 2025**, all operators of small commercial vessels working within the limits of Portland Harbour are required to register their craft with Portland Harbour Authority by completing the online registration form found HERE

   Web address https://www.portland-port.co.uk/leisure/harbour-dues-permits/skippers-permits-small-commercial-craft-registration-form/

   Registration must be renewed on an annual basis.

2. Any vessel that is certificated for commercial use under any:

   - Small Commercial Vessel Code
   - Workboat Code
   - Passenger Boat Code

   must provide the Harbour Master with a copy of the relevant certificate of compliance or licence, a valid insurance certificate, and a commercially endorsed coxswain certificate.

3. Anyone operating or intending to operate a vessel for commercial use or charter (skippered or bareboat). The vessel will need to be prepared and equipped to conform with the appropriate MCA Code of Practice.

4. This General Direction applies to:

   - Sailing Yacht charter vessels – skippered and bareboat.
   - Motor charter vessels.
   - Fishing Boats.
   - Angling and Dive Boats.

- Motor vessels – carrying up to 12 passengers.
- RIBs.
- Workboats.
- Pilot boats.
- Survey Boats.

Full details of the Code (MGN 280) are available on the MCA website here.

5. Commercial vessels for the purposes of this Direction mean any vessel which is less than 24 metres in load line length and is not a pleasure vessel.

A pleasure vessel is:
Any vessel which is used solely for sport or pleasure by its owners (or the owners' immediate family or friends) or, where the owner is a body corporate, employees or officers of the owner (or their immediate family or friends) on voyages or excursions for which the owner does not receive money for or in connection with operating the vessel or carrying any person, other than as a contribution to the direct expenses of the operation of the vessel incurred during the voyage or excursion; or any vessel wholly owned by or on behalf of a members' club formed for the purpose of sport or pleasure which, at the time it is being used, is used only for the sport or pleasure of members of that club or their immediate family, and for the use of which any charges levied are paid into club funds and applied for the general use of the club.

6. Failure to comply with this Direction is an offence and offenders may be prosecuted.

Chief Executive
Portland Harbour Authority Limited
1st June 2025

Owners, Operators, Agents, Masters, Yacht Clubs and recreational sailing organisations are requested that this Direction is made known to all persons that use Portland Harbour.