



Pilot collections and deliveries

19 Feb 2020

There are occasions when for safety reasons pilots will be unable to board or disembark from vessels at Falmouth Pilot station due to a number of reasons:

- Weather conditions at the time – Falmouth is particularly exposed to wind and weather from the East and South East
- The design of the vessel including presence of beltings – with or without cut-outs as specified in the IMO required boarding arrangements for pilots.

The IMO requirements for pilot boarding arrangements should be complied with including the necessity for the pilot ladder to lie flat on the ships side, for a cut-out of at least 6 metres in any belting to allow this. It should be remembered that a 6 metre cut-out may not be sufficient for the pilot boat to come alongside in poor conditions. The height of the gangway in a combination rig should also be considered, we have noted that some rigs are compliant with the climbing distances for a pilot but would be unsafe to bring a boat alongside in the prevailing swell and weather.

Masters, owners, operators and agents are reminded that Falmouth Pilots are willing to provide a collection vessel for vessels in UK and near European ports in order to avoid the possibility of lengthy delays. The decision to request a pilot to collect a vessel rests with the vessel however if required contact can be made with Falmouth Pilots to discuss the specifics of the vessel and forecast weather conditions.

If a collection is required sufficient notice should be given, every effort will be made to assist but a minimum notice period of 5 days is requested.

On sailing should forecast conditions be such that disembarking may not be possible then the options will be to delay sailing or for the pilot to sail with the vessel to another UK or near European port. The possibilities at the time will be discussed by Falmouth Pilot Services with the vessel and her agents.

Duncan Paul
Deputy Harbour Master
dhm@falmouthharbour.co.uk
01326213537