



GUIDELINES

COMMERCIAL VESSEL WAIVERS

The *Pacific Pilotage Regulations* state that **every vessel (or combination of vessels) over 350 gross tons (ITC)** is subject to compulsory pilotage.

Section 10(3) of the Regulations allows the Pacific Pilotage Authority to waive compulsory pilotage provided that the following conditions are met:

1. The vessel is under 10,000 gross tons (ITC).
2. All persons in charge of the deck watch meet the following certification and sea time requirements:
 - (a) *hold certificates of competency of the proper class and category of voyage for the ship that are required by Part 2 of the [Marine Personnel Regulations](#);*
 - (b) *have served either 150 days of service in the preceding 18 months or 365 days of service in the preceding 60 months, of which 60 days must have been served in the preceding 24 months, at sea as a person in charge of the deck watch on one or more ships on voyages in the region or engaged in the coastal trade; and*
 - (c) *have served as persons in charge of the deck watch in the compulsory pilotage area for which the waiver is sought on one or more occasions during the preceding 24 months.*

In addition, under PPA's Standard of Care, an officer of the watch who navigates your vessels in BC pilotage waters must have documented trips associated with the zones for which the waiver is being sought, time which may be accumulated as any member of the deck watch under the supervision of a qualified waiver holder or pilot, as follows by zone:

Zone 1 Fraser River, below the New Westminster bridge: 5 round trips

Zone 2 Fraser River, above the New Westminster bridge: 10 round trips

Zone 3 Second Narrows (MRA-2): 6 round trips

Zone 4 Salish Sea (Race Rocks to Seymour Narrows): 10 transits (each equivalent to at least 2 x 12-hr days of watchkeeping experience) within the zone

Zone 5 Seymour Narrows to Pine Island, and West Coast Vancouver Island west of Race Rocks: 10 transits (each equivalent to at least 2 x 12-hr days of watchkeeping experience) within the zone

Zone 6 Central & North Coast (Pine Is to Dixon including Haida Gwaii): 10 transits (each equivalent to at least 2 x 12-hr days of watchkeeping experience) within the zone

The following describes the necessary documentation and process in order for the Pacific Pilotage Authority to assess an application.

1. **Cover letter:** a cover letter on company letterhead stating that your company wishes to operate one or more commercial vessels over 350 gross tons and that you are requesting a pilotage waiver for the purpose of transiting through compulsory pilotage waters.
2. **Declaration of compliance – renewals and new applications:** this form (available on the PPA website) must be completed in full and signed to confirm your company's understanding of the PPA's waiver requirements.
3. **Deck officer credentials:** a copy of a Canadian or U.S. issued certificate of competency appropriate to the vessel size for all deck watch officers who will navigate the company's vessels in compulsory pilotage waters. A “Declaration of Compliance – new officers” (available on the PPA website) signed by a company representative must also be included (one per officer).
4. **Vessel documentation:**
 - **For Canadian operators:** a list of all vessels (including barges) that the company wishes to operate in pilotage waters, along with their gross tonnage (ITC).
 - **For U.S. operators:** copies of Certificates of Documentation for all vessels (including barges) that the company wishes to operate in pilotage waters.

Applications can be submitted via e-mail to waivers@ppa.gc.ca.

A formal waiver application must be made with the required documentation at least two weeks prior to the planned sailing date through compulsory pilotage waters.

Please note:

- “Deck watch officer” means a person who has the immediate charge of navigation, maneuvering, operation or safety of a ship, but does not include a pilot. The definition thus refers to the master and the officers, as the master will have charge of the navigation and maneuvering during the berthing and unberthing of the vessel.
- Commercial waivers are valid for a one-year period ending on March 1st for U.S. operators and April 1st for Canadian operators.
- **The waiver is not granted until a waiver letter is issued by the Pacific Pilotage Authority.**