



GUIDELINES

PLEASURE CRAFT WAIVERS

The *General Pilotage Regulations* state that **every pleasure craft over 500 gross tons (ITC)** is subject to compulsory pilotage.

Under Section 25.10(3) of the [General Pilotage Regulations](#), the Pacific Pilotage Authority may, on application, waive compulsory pilotage provided that the following conditions are met:

1. The vessel is under 10,000 gross tons (ITC).
2. As of the day on which the application is made, every person in charge of the deck watch:
 - (a) holds the certificates that are required by Part 2 of the [Marine Personnel Regulations](#) or, if the ship is not Canadian, equivalent certificates; i.e. Certificate of Competency must be appropriate for the vessel
 - (b) has completed, as a person in charge of the deck watch on voyages in that Authority's region or engaged in the [coastal trade](#), at least
 - (i) 150 days of service in the preceding 18 months, or
 - (ii) 365 days of service in the preceding 60 months, including at least 60 days in the preceding 24 months; and
 - (c) has served as a person in charge of the deck watch in the compulsory pilotage area for which the waiver is sought on at least one occasion within 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 A	<i>Fraser River, below the New Westminster bridge: 5 round trips</i>
Zone B	<i>Fraser River, above the New Westminster bridge: 10 round trips</i>
Zone C	<i>Second Narrows (MRA-2): 6 round trips</i>
Zone D	<i>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</i>
Zone E	<i>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</i>
Zone F	<i>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</i>

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

1. **Application form:** the application form can be found on the PPA website. The form must be completed in full and signed.
2. **Owner/Operator Waiver Compliance:** 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:** for each deck watch officer who will navigate the vessel in compulsory pilotage waters you must provide,
 - a copy of a Canadian or U.S. issued certificate of competency appropriate to the vessel size,
 - a “Individual Officer Waiver Compliance” form (available on the PPA website) signed by a company representative must also be included (one per officer).
 - proof of sea time: sea time testimonials, or a sea time letter showing the officer meets the minimum sea time requirements under Section 25.10 (3) of the [General Pilotage Regulations](#). Sea time letters must be on company letterhead clearly stating dates and number of days at sea in the area.
4. **Proof of insurance coverage:** written confirmation that the vessel is insured with both Hull and P&I underwriters, including the policy dates and coverage amounts.
5. **Waiver of subrogation:** letter or statement from the vessel's underwriters specifically acknowledging that the vessel is at liberty to sail in the region without a pilot and specifically agreeing that should the Pacific Pilotage Authority waive compulsory pilotage for the insured vessel, the underwriter agrees to waive subrogation against the Pacific Pilotage Authority and its directors, officers, and employees.
6. **Letter of indemnity:** letter of indemnity from the vessel owner stating the following:

“In consideration of the Pacific Pilotage Authority, waiving compulsory pilotage in respect of the vessel (name of vessel) the undersigned owner or authorized representative of the vessel owner agrees that the owner shall indemnify and hold harmless the Pacific Pilotage Authority, its directors and officers from and against all claims of whatsoever nature and kind including any claim resulting from negligent conduct, arising while the vessel is operating in the region administered by the Pacific Pilotage Authority.”

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

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

Please note:

- Due to the high volume of waiver applications, PPA will only review applications that contain all the required documentation; incomplete applications will be rejected.
- “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.
- **The waiver is not granted until a waiver letter is issued by the Pacific Pilotage Authority.**