



## COWES HARBOUR COMMISSION

### LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS No. 19 of 2025

#### Diving At Work Regulations 1997 and Commercial Operations Involving ‘Swimmers’

*(This replaces Local Notice to Mariners 09 of 2022 which is hereby cancelled)*

**Notice is hereby given** that all operations involving commercial divers or swimmers within the limits of Cowes Harbour must be approved by the Harbour Office or relevant Marina Manager prior to the operation commencing. **All operations involving commercial divers must meet the requirements of the Diving at Work Regulations 1997.**

##### **Diving**

Diving contractors, Masters and Agents must ensure that a ‘Diving Request’ is completed and forwarded to the relevant office **at least 24 hours before the operation**. Approval must have been received and a radio check completed with call sign ‘HM1 on VHF Ch69’ for activities outside of the confines of a marina or on Ch80 with the relevant marina office immediately before the diving operation commences and a diver enters the water.

##### **Swimming**

For the purpose of this Notice a ‘swimmer’ is defined as a person who enters the water to undertake a commercial operation within the Port area and who is not subject to the requirements of the Diving at Work Regulations 1997.

All Masters, Contractors and Agents must ensure that a written Safe System of Work, with appropriate Risk Assessments, is submitted to the appropriate office prior to commencing any commercial operation involving ‘swimmers’.

As a minimum, issues to be considered within the Risk Assessments are to include, but not be limited to:

- Scope of the task – boat scrubbing, surface work on piles, quay walls, outfalls, in the surf zone, on buoys etc.
- Team size – sufficient, qualified, competent, prepared etc.
- Equipment involved – wet suit or coveralls, foot protection, gloves, head protection, harness, lifeline, weight belt, knife, light, tools for the job etc.
- Operational elements – daylight only, access to the water, environmental effects, visibility, lookout, radio checks etc.
- Emergency measures – standby swimmer, recovery of injured personnel, availability of rescue craft, nearest medical facility, road transport availability etc.

## **Communications**

In all cases, communications on the appropriate channel (CH69 or Ch80) must be in place and must be checked with the relevant office before operations commence. A constant listening watch must be maintained throughout all stages of the operation.

A 'Diving or swimming' request form can be downloaded from the Cowes Harbour Commission website here: [Diving Request Form](#). The completed form must be submitted to the Harbour Office and approved prior to any diving or swimming operation taking place.

*This local notice to mariners will remain in until further notice.*

### **Jon Kidd**

Harbour Master, Harbour Office, Town Quay, Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO31 7AS  
Email: [chc@cowes.co.uk](mailto:chc@cowes.co.uk) Website: [www.cowes.co.uk](http://www.cowes.co.uk)

### **2 January 2025**

Owners, Agents, Charterers, Marinas, Yacht Clubs and Recreational Sailing Organisations should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.