
 S T A T U T O R Y I N S T R U M E N T S

1977 No. 252

MERCHANT SHIPPING

SAFETY

**The Merchant Shipping (Smooth and Partially Smooth Waters)
Rules 1977**

Made - - - - 17th February 1977

Laid before Parliament 25th February 1977

Coming into Operation 21st March 1977

The Secretary of State, in exercise of powers contained in section 427 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1894(a), as substituted by section 2 of the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Act 1949(b) and amended by section 9 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1964(c), and by section 2(1) of the Fishing Vessels (Safety Provisions) Act 1970(d), and now vested in him (e), and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following Rules.

1. These Rules may be cited as the Merchant Shipping (Smooth and Partially Smooth Waters) Rules 1977 and shall come into operation on 21st March 1977.

2. The Interpretation Act 1889(f) shall apply for the interpretation of these Rules as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament and as if these Rules and the Rules hereby revoked were Acts of Parliament.

3. Schedule 2 to these Rules shall have effect for the purpose of defining the expressions "smooth waters" and "partially smooth waters" in Rules made in exercise of the powers contained in section 427 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1894 (as substituted and amended as aforementioned) and in section 2(1) of the Fishing Vessels (Safety Provisions) Act 1970.

4.—(1) For the definitions of "smooth waters" and "partially smooth waters" in the Rules specified in column 3 of Schedule 2 hereto there shall be substituted:

“ “Smooth waters” means any waters not being the sea or partially smooth waters, and in particular means waters of any of the areas specified in column 2 of Schedule 2 to the Merchant Shipping (Smooth and Partially Smooth Waters) Rules 1977;”;

“ “Partially smooth waters” means, as respects any period specified in Schedule 2 to the Merchant Shipping (Smooth and Partially Smooth Waters) Rules 1977, the waters of any of the areas specified in column 3 of that Schedule in relation to that period;”.

(a) 1894 c. 60.

(c) 1964 c. 47.

(e) See S.I. 1970/1537 (1970 III, p. 5293).

(b) 1949 c. 43.

(d) 1970 c. 27.

(f) 1889 c. 63.

(2) For the definition of "sea going" in Rule 1(5) of the Fishing Vessels (Safety Provisions) Rules 1975(a) there shall be substituted:

" "Sea going" means proceeding outside the limits of smooth or partially smooth waters as specified in Schedule 2 to the Merchant Shipping (Smooth and Partially Smooth Waters) Rules 1977;"

5. The Rules specified in Schedule 1 hereto are hereby revoked to the extent specified in column 2 of that Schedule.

Stanley Clinton Davis,
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Trade.

17th February 1977.

SCHEDULE 1

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Title of Rules	Extent of Revocation	Rule referred to in Rule 4(1)
The Merchant Shipping (Pilot Ladders) Rules 1965(b), as amended (c).	The Schedule	Rule 2(2)
The Merchant Shipping (Passenger Ship Construction) Rules 1965(d)	Schedule 1	Rule 3(2)
The Merchant Shipping (Life-saving Appliances) Rules 1965(e), as amended (f)	Schedule 1	Rule 2(2)
The Merchant Shipping (Fire Appliances) Rules 1965(g), as amended(h)	Schedule 1	Rule 2(2)
The Fishing Vessels (Safety Provisions) Rules 1975(i), as amended(f)	Schedule 24	Rule 1(5)

(a) S.I. 1975/330 (1975 I, p. 887).

(b) S.I. 1965/1046 (1965 I, p. 2536).

(c) The relevant amending Instrument is S.I. 1972/531 (1972 I, p. 1816).

(d) S.I. 1965/1103 (1965 II, p. 2826).

(e) S.I. 1965/1105 (1965 II, p. 2940).

(f) The amending Instruments are not relevant to the subject matter of these Rules.

(g) S.I. 1965/1106 (1965 II, p. 3012).

(h) The amending Instrument is not relevant to the subject matter of these Rules.

(i) S.I. 1975/330 (1975 I, p. 887).

SCHEDULE 2

LIMITS OF SMOOTH WATER AND PARTIALLY SMOOTH WATER AREAS

(1) The outer limits of the smooth water areas specified in column 2 of this Schedule shall be taken to be the corresponding inner limits of the partially smooth water areas specified in column 3 of this Schedule.

(2) Unless otherwise indicated, these limits apply to all times of the year. In this Schedule "summer" means the months of April to October, inclusive, and "winter" means the months of November to March, inclusive.

Column 1 District	Column 2 Smooth Water Areas	Column 3 Partially Smooth Water Areas
SHETLAND ISLES:— Blue Mull Sound Yell Sound Lerwick	No smooth waters No smooth waters No smooth waters	Between Gutcher and Belmont Between Tofts Voe and Uista In winter in the area bounded by a line from Point of Scotland to Heogan to the northward, and from Holm of Mel to the lighthouse situated some 3 cables to the eastward of the Nabb to the southward. In summer in the area bounded by a line from Easter Rova Head to Score Head to the northward, and from the south end of Ness of Sound to Kirkabisterness to southward.
ORKNEY ISLANDS:— Kirkwall Stromness	No smooth waters No smooth waters	Between Kirkwall and Rousay not east of a line between Point of the Grand (Egilsay) and Galt Ness (Shapinsay) or between Work Head (Mainland) through Helliar Holm light to the shore of Shapinsay; not north west of the south east tip of Eynhallow Island, or north of the southern tip of Holm of Scockness. To Scapa but not outside Scapa Flow.

Column 1 District	Column 2 Smooth Water Areas	Column 3 Partially Smooth Water Areas
Scapa Flow	Within an area bounded by lines drawn from Wharh on the island of Flotta to the Martello Tower on South Walls, and from Point of Cletts on the island of Hoy to Thomson's Hill triangulation point on the island of Fara and thence to Gibraltar Pier on the island of Flotta.	Within an area bounded by lines drawn from Point of Cletts on the island of Hoy to Thomson's Hill triangulation point on the island of Fara and thence to Gibraltar Pier on the island of Flotta; from St Vincent Pier on the island of Flotta to the westernmost point of Calf of Flotta; from the easternmost point of Calf of Flotta to Needle Point on the island of South Ronaldsay, and from the Ness on Mainland to Point of Oxan lighthouse on the island of Graensay and thence to Bu Point on the island of Hoy.
EAST OF SCOTLAND:—	In Cromary Firth within a line between North Sutor and South Sutor.	Within a line from North Sutor to Nairn Breakwater.
Cromarty	Within a line from Fort George to Chanony Point to Fort William.	Within a line from North Sutor to Nairn Breakwater.
Inverness	Within a line from South Jetty to Abercromby Jetty.	No partially smooth waters.
Aberdeen	Within a line from Fish Dock, Dundee to Craig Head, East Newport.	Within a line from Broughty Castle to Tayport.
Dundee	Within the Firth of Forth but not east of the Forth railway bridge.	Within a line from Kirkcaldy to Portobello.
Queensferry, North and South	Within the Breakwaters.	Within a line from Kirkcaldy to Portobello.
Leith	Within a line from Spittal Point to the inner end of the northern Breakwaters.	No partially smooth waters.
NORTH EAST OF ENGLAND:—	Within the Breakwaters.	No partially smooth waters.
Berwick on Tweed	Within the outer Blyth Pier Heads.	No partially smooth waters.
Amble	Within the Tyne Pier Heads.	No partially smooth waters.
Blyth	Within a line from Middleton Jetty to Old Pier Head.	No partially smooth waters.
Newcastle, North and South Shields Hartlepool,	On the River Tees but not seaward of a line extending due west from Government Jetty.	No partially smooth waters.
Stockton, Middlesbrough	Within Whitby Pier Heads.	No partially smooth waters.
Whitby	Within the Breakwaters.	No partially smooth waters.
Seaham Harbour	Within the outer Sunderland Pier Heads.	No partially smooth waters.
Sunderland		

EAST OF ENGLAND:— Hull	No smooth waters	In winter within a line from New Holland to Paul. In summer within a line from Cleethorpes to Patrington Church.
Goole	Within a line from North Ferry to South Ferry	In winter within a line from New Holland to Paul. In summer within a line from Cleethorpes to Patrington Church.
Grimsby	No smooth waters	In winter no partially smooth waters. In summer within a line from Cleethorpes Pier to Patrington Church.
Boston LONDON:— Wisbech King's Lynn Yarmouth and Lowestoft	Inside the New Cut. Inside Wisbech Cut. Inside Lynn Cut. On all inland navigation within the Harbour Entrances at Yarmouth or Lowestoft. On the River Deben to the Mouth. On the River Orwell or on the River Stour, and within a line from Dovercourt Breakwater to Landguard Point.	No partially smooth waters. No partially smooth waters. No partially smooth waters. No partially smooth waters.
Woodbridge Harwich, Ipswich or Felixstowe Railway Pier	On the River Blackwater within a line from the south western extremity of Mersea Island to Sales Point.	No partially smooth waters. No partially smooth waters.
Maldon		
Burnham on Crouch	On the River Crouch within a line from Hollywell Point to Foulness Point.	In summer within a line from Clacton Pier to Reculvers. In winter within a line from Colne Point to Whitstable.
London	River Thames, westward of a N/S line through PHA Isolation Hospital, Gravesend.	In summer within a line from Clacton Pier to Reculvers. In winter within a line from Colne Point to Whitstable.
Rochester	Sheerness and Whitstable inside Sheppey.	In summer within a line from Clacton Pier to Reculvers. In winter within a line from Colne Point to Whitstable.

Column 1 District	Column 2 Smooth Water Areas	Column 3 Partially Smooth Water Areas
Dover	Within a line drawn across the east and west entrances to the harbour.	No partially smooth waters.
Rye	On the River Rother above the tide signal station at Camber.	No partially smooth waters.
Littlehampton	On the River Arun above Littlehampton Pier.	No partially smooth waters.
S & SW OF ENGLAND:— Chichester	Within a line drawn between Eastoke point and the church spire West Wittering.	Inside the Isle of Wight within an area bounded by lines drawn between the church spire, West Wittering, to Trinity Church, Bembridge, to the eastward and the Needles and Hurst Point to the westward.
Langstone Harbour	Within a line drawn between Eastney Point and Gunner Point	Inside the Isle of Wight within an area bounded by lines drawn between the church spire, West Wittering, to Trinity Church, Bembridge, to the eastward, and the Needles and Hurst Point to the westward.
Portsmouth	Within Portsmouth Harbour.	Inside the Isle of Wight within an area bounded by lines drawn between the church spire, West Wittering, to Trinity Church, Bembridge, to the eastward, and the Needles and Hurst Point to the westward.
Bembridge, Isle of Wight	Within Brading Harbour.	Inside the Isle of Wight within an area bounded by lines drawn between the church spire, West Wittering, to Trinity Church, Bembridge, to the eastward, and the Needles and Hurst Point to the westward.
Cowes, Isle of Wight	The River Medina within a line from the Breakwater Light on the east bank to the Watch House Light on the west bank.	Inside the Isle of Wight within an area bounded by the lines drawn between the church spire, West Wittering, to Trinity Church, Bembridge, to the eastward, and the Needles and Hurst Point to the westward.

Southampton	Within a line from Calshot Castle to Hook Beacon.	Inside the Isle of Wight within an area bounded by lines drawn between the church spire, West Wittering, to Trinity Church, Bembridge to the eastward, and the Needles and Hurst Point to the westward.
Beaulieu	Within Beaulieu River not eastward of a N/S line through Needs Oar Point.	Inside the Isle of Wight within an area bounded by lines drawn between the church spire, West Wittering, to Trinity Church, Bembridge, to the eastward and the Needles and Hurst Point to the westward.
Christchurch Poole	Within Christchurch Harbour excluding the Run. Inside the Harbour not seaward of the line of the Chain Ferry between Sandbanks and S. Haven Port.	No partially smooth waters.
Weymouth	No smooth waters	No partially smooth waters.
Exeter	Within a line from Warren Point to the Coast-guard flag staff at Exmouth.	Within Portland Harbour and between River Wey and Portland Harbour.
Teignmouth Dartmouth	River Dart within a line from Kettle Point to Battery Point.	No partially smooth waters.
Salcombe and Kingsbridge	River Salcombe not seaward of a line Splat Point to Lambury Point.	No partially smooth waters.
Plymouth	Within a line from Mount Batten Pier to Riveness Point through Drake's Island. The River Yealm within a line from Warren Point to Misery Point.	Within a line from Cawsand to the Breakwater to Staddon Pier.
Fowey Falmouth	Inside the Harbour. Within a line from St Anthony Head to Pendennis Point.	No partially smooth waters.
Padstow	Padstow Harbour within a line from Gun Point to Brae Hill.	In winter within a line from St Anthony Head to Rosemullion Point.
Barnstable and Bideford	Not to seaward of a line bearing 200° from the lighthouse on Crow Point to the shore at Skern Point.	In summer within a line from St Anthony Head to Nare Point. Within a line from Stepper Point to Trebetherick Point. No partially smooth waters.

Column 1 District	Column 2 Smooth Water Areas	Column 3 Partially Smooth Water Areas
BRISTOL CHANNEL:— Bridgwater Bristol	Inside Stert Point. Within a line from Avonmouth Pier to Wharf Point.	Within the Bar. In winter within a line from Blacknore Point to Caldicot Pill Portskeewett. In summer within a line from Barry Dock Pier to Steepholm thence to Brean Down.
Gloucester	The Rivers Severn and Avon via the East Channel and Gloucester Canal north of a line running due west from Sharpness Point.	In winter within a line from Blacknore Point to Caldicot Pill, Portskeewett. In summer within a line from Barry Dock Pier to Steepholm thence to Brean Down.
Chepstow	River Wye, above Chepstow.	In winter within a line from Blacknore Point to Caldicot Pill, Portskeewett. In summer within a line from Barry Dock Pier to Steepholm thence to Brean Down.
Cardiff	Within a line from Low Water Pier Head to Penarth Head.	In winter no partially smooth waters. In summer within a line from Barry Dock Pier to Steepholm thence to Brean Down.
Barry Dock	Inside the Docks.	In winter no partially smooth waters. In summer within a line from Barry Dock Pier to Steepholm thence to Brean Down.
Port Talbot enclosed docks Port Talbot tidal harbour	Inside enclosed Docks. Inside a line joining the seaward ends of the breakwater. In the River Neath Inside enclosed Docks.	No partially smooth waters. No partially smooth waters. No partially smooth waters.
Neath Swansea	Within an area bounded by a line drawn from Burry Port Western Pier to Whiteford Point. Within a line from South Hook Point to Thorn Point.	No partially smooth waters. No partially smooth waters.
Llanelli and Burry Port	In the Harbour within a line joining the North and East Breakwater Heads. Inside the Bar.	No partially smooth waters. No partially smooth waters.
Milford		No partially smooth waters.
Fishguard		No partially smooth waters.
Cardigan		No partially smooth waters.

Aberdyfi	Within a line from Aberdyfi Railway Station to Twyni Bach Beacon.	No partially smooth waters.
LIVERPOOL Barmouth	Within a line from Barmouth Railway Station to Penrhyn Point.	No partially smooth waters.
Portmadoc Holyhead	Within a line from Harlech Point to Graig Ddu. Within an area bounded by the main breakwater and a line drawn from the head of the breakwater to Brynglas Point, Towyn Bay.	No partially smooth waters. No partially smooth waters.
Caernarvon, Bangor	Within the Menai Straits between a line joining Aber Menai Point to Belan Point and a line joining Beaumaris Pier to Pen-y-Coed Point.	Within the Menai Straits from a line joining Llanddwyn Island Light to Dinas Dinlleu and lines joining the South end of Puffin Island to Trwyn Du Point and Llanfairfechan Railway Station.
Conway Chester	Within a line from Mussel Hill to Tremlyd Point. River Dee not below Connah's Quay.	No partially smooth waters. In winter within a line from Hilbre Point to Point of Air.
Liverpool	Above the Rock Lighthouse.	In summer within a line from Formby Point to Point of Air.
Preston	Within a line from Lytham to Southport.	In winter no partially smooth waters. In summer within a line from Formby Point to Point of Air.
Fleetwood	Within a line from Low Light to Knott End Pier.	Within a line from Southport to Blackpool inside the banks.
Lancaster	Within a line from Sunderland Point to Chapel Hill.	In winter no partially smooth waters. In summer within a line from Rossal Point to Humphrey Head.
Heysham	No smooth waters.	In summer within a line from Rossal Point to Humphrey Head.
Morecambe	No smooth waters.	In winter no partially smooth waters. In summer from within a line from Rossal Point to Humphrey Head. In winter no partially smooth waters. In summer within a line from Rossal Point to Humphrey Head.

Column 1 District	Column 2 Smooth Water Areas	Column 3 Partially Smooth Water Areas
Barrow Douglas, Isle of Man Carlisle WEST OF SCOTLAND:— Dumfries Stranraer Ayr Glasgow	Between Walney Island and the mainland. From Battery Pier to Victoria Pier. Above Port Carlisle. Within a line from Airds Point to Scar Point. Within a line from Cairn Ryan to Kirkcolm Point. Inside the Bar. Above partially smooth waters.	No partially smooth waters. No partially smooth waters. Within a line from Southerness Point to Silloth. Within a line from Southerness Point to Silloth. Loch Ryan within a line from Finnart's Point to Millieur Point. No partially smooth waters. Outer limit: a line from Skipness to a position one mile south of Garroch Head thence to Farland Head. Inner Limit in winter: a line from Cloch Light-house to Dunoon Pier. Inner limit in summer: a line from Bogany Point, isle of Bute to Skelmorie Castle and a line drawn from Ardlamont Point to the southern extremity of Eterrick Bay, inside the Kyles of Bute. Note: The above inner summer limit is extended between 5th June and 5th September (both dates inclusive) by a line drawn from a point two miles off the Ayrshire coast at Skelmorie Castle to Tomont End, Cumbræ, and a line drawn from Portachur Point, Cumbræ to Green Point, Ayrshire. No partially smooth waters. No partially smooth waters. Within an area bounded on the north by a line from Dunollie Point Light to Ard na Chruith and to the south by a line from Rudha Seanach to Ard na Cuile.
Colintrave Cambeltown Oban	Between Colintrave and Rhudhabodach. Inside the harbour within a line from Macringan's Point to Ottercharach Point. No smooth waters.	

Ballachulish Fort William	Within Loch Leven and not outside Peter Straits. In Loch Linnhe north of Corran Point Light, and including Loch Eil and the Canal to Inverness. Within Kyle Akin not westward of Eilean Ban Light or eastward of Eileanan Dubha.	No partially smooth waters. No partially smooth waters.
Kyle of Lochalish	Between Stromemore and Strome Ferry.	Through Loch Alsh to the Head of Loch Duich.
Strome	In Loch Broom within a line drawn between Ullapool Point Light and Aultnaharrie.	No partially smooth waters. No partially smooth waters.
Ullapool	Across Loch Cairnbawn in the area between the eastern-most point of Garbh Eilean and the western-most point of Eilean na Rainich.	No partially smooth waters.
Kylesku		
NORTHERN IRELAND:—		
Carlingford Lough Strangford Lough	Within a line from Greenore to Greencastle Point. Within Strangford Lough but not seaward of Rue Point.	No partially smooth waters. No partially smooth waters.
Larne	Within a line from Larne Pier to the ferry pier on Island Magee.	No partially smooth waters.
Belfast	Within a line from Holywood to Macedon Point.	In winter no partially smooth waters. In summer within a line from Carrick-fergus to Bangor.
Lough Erne Lough Neagh	Upper or Lower Lough Erne. Within two miles of the shore.	No partially smooth waters. At a greater distance than two miles from the shore.
Londonderry	Within a line from Magilligan Point to Greencastle.	No partially smooth waters.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Rules.)

These Rules revoke the Schedules specifying the limits of smooth and partially smooth waters in the following Rules:

- (a) the Merchant Shipping (Pilot Ladders) Rules 1965,
- (b) the Merchant Shipping (Passenger Ship Construction) Rules 1965,
- (c) the Merchant Shipping (Life-saving Appliances) Rules 1965,
- (d) the Merchant Shipping (Fire Appliances) Rules 1965, and
- (e) the Fishing Vessels (Safety Provisions) Rules 1975.

The Rules substitute, for the existing definitions of "smooth waters" and "partially smooth waters" in the Rules at (a) to (d) above, and for the definition of "sea going" in the Rules at (e), new definitions in which references to the revoked Schedules are replaced by references to Schedule 2 to these Rules.

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