

LECTURE 07 • LGC424 • 3 H 30 MIN

HARBOUR AND PILOTAGE LAW

Purpose. Explain the statutory powers and duties of harbour authorities, the regulation of pilotage and the allocation of liability among authority, pilot, master and shipowner.

Learning outcomes supported. 1, 2, 3 and 6

Suggested time plan: Read and annotate 45 min | Research statute and guidance 55 min | Prepare the governance review 90 min | Review 20 min | Total 3 h 30 min

Research questions

1. Which statutory and common-law duties shape the safety functions of a harbour authority?
2. What responsibilities remain with the master when a vessel carries an authorised or compulsory pilot?
3. How may pilot negligence or deficient harbour systems affect the liability of the pilot, authority and shipowner?

Independent-learning activity

4. Read the lecture and map the powers, duties and accountability of a fictional competent harbour authority.
5. Review a pilotage incident involving defective passage information, master–pilot disagreement and damage to harbour works.
6. Identify the potential claims, statutory questions and evidence relevant to the authority, pilot, master and shipowner.
7. Submit a 1,000-word governance and liability briefing with a responsibility map and five recommended control improvements.

Recommended further reading

[Pilotage Act 1987](#)

[Harbours Act 1964](#)

[UK Ports and Marine Facilities Safety Code](#)

Also use the corresponding London Gateway College lecture material and any tutor-approved primary authority or specialist maritime-law source.