



HARBOUR MASTER'S NOTICE 01 – 2025

Carriage and use of VHF Radio and AIS in port waters

Recent incidents have highlighted that small commercial vessels operating in port have limited situational awareness as they do not carry and utilise appropriate communication equipment.

Due to the safety and security risks, all vessels, when working in port waters in support of port operations shall:

- Carry or be fitted with a VHF radio (for handheld radios it shall have a minimum power of 5 watts)
- Maintain a listening watch on VHF Channel 12 and 16
- Be fitted with an AIS transceiver (minimum of class B) which shall be transmitting when the vessel is in operation within port waters

For the purpose of this notice a vessel working in port waters supporting port operations means a vessel such as a lines boat, work boat, dive boat or other vessel working in the port waters, not a recreational vessel or a commercial vessel transiting port waters to or from the Local Port of Portland Bay.

All vessels are to comply with the VHF radio requirements no later than 10 February 2025. For the carriage of AIS no later than 03 May 2025. This may be extended on a case-by-case basis with prior approval from the Harbour Master for reasons beyond the control of the vessel operator.

Nothing in this direction displaces minimum carriage and use requirements as required by AMSA, STVic or otherwise by law.

For further information contact the Harbour Master.

Andrew Hays
Harbour Master / Marine Manager

03 February 2024