



COWES HARBOUR COMMISSION

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS No. 21 of 2023

Introduction of Merchant Shipping (Watercraft) Order

Notice is hereby given jointly by Cowes Harbour Commission, ABP Southampton and KHM Portsmouth, that the Merchant Shipping (Watercraft) Order will be introduced on the 31st March 2023.

Under the new legislation, “watercraft” means any type of craft which:-

- (a) Is capable of moving under its own mechanical power
- (b) Is used, navigated or situated wholly or partly in or on water, and
- (c) Is capable of being used to carry one or more persons

Please note that the legislation does not directly amend the MSA 1995. The 2023 Order applies certain provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 (and instruments made, or treated as made, under that Act) and the Harbours Act 1964 to watercraft (as defined in Article 3 of the 2023 Order) as they apply in relation to ships, with modifications in some cases.

More information regarding the order can be found at:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2023/35/introduction/made>

This local notice to mariners will self-cancel at 2359 on 31st December 2023.

Shane Wood

Harbour Master, Harbour Office, Town Quay, Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO31 7AS

Email: chc@cowes.co.uk Website: www.cowesharbourcommission.co.uk

24th March 2023

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.