

Main Points for Merchant Ships Entry and Departure During the Heavy Fog and Restricted Visibility of Suao Port

1. Suao Port Branch Office of Keelung Port, Taiwan International Ports Corporation, Ltd (hereinafter referred to as the office) has formulated the main points of operation to ensure the safety of navigation for ships in the port area during the foggy season of Suao Port (hereinafter referred to as the port).
2. Timing to suspend the application for entry or departure due to poor visibility by the pilots or heavy fog is defined by: the outline of Suao Lighthouse cannot be seen from the fixed point, VTS. (Approximately 1 NM between the two.)
3. Reporting procedures:
 - (1) After the VTS controller informs the manager of the Harbor Management Section and reports to the director for approval and recordation. Then the controller will notify the relevant units to suspend the entry and departure of ships.
 - (2) The notification method could be via radio (CH-14), and text message shall be sent to the relevant shipping companies, pilot office, port service companies and other units.
4. Rules to be followed by ships sailing inside and outside the port:
 - (1) All ships shall turn on CH14 and keep a listening watch without obstructed. When the visibility is restricted, the ships shall comply with the provisions of the COLREG (1972) and sound an appropriate sound signal.
 - (2) Actions for ships inside of the port:
 - A. For ships that are still sailing in port yet have left the wharf and are ready to leave, the captain or pilot should notify the VTS controller as soon as possible and use the electronic navigation equipment on board to leave the port safely. However, if there is any safety concern, ships shall return to the original wharf at the soonest.
 - B. For ships that have entered the port, the captain or pilot should notify the VTS controller as soon as possible and utilize the electronic navigation equipment on board to enter the port safely. However, if there is any safety concern, ships shall look for appropriate place to turn around and leave; staying or anchoring in port is prohibited.
 - (3) Actions for ships outside of the port:
 - A. Ships in anchorage remain to anchor in the area.
 - B. Ships navigating near the anchorage area in the open sea should seek anchorage in safe waters immediately.

C. Upon the suspension of the ship entry and departure application operations was announced, if the ship has entered the entry channel from the open sea, and is within 1 NM from the south breakwater of the port (depending on the size of the ship), priority entry shall be granted to entering the port due to operational difficulties to leave the channel. The captain or pilot should notify VTS as soon as possible to take into account the safety factors and use the electronic navigation equipment onboard to enter the port safely. The rest of the ships intending to enter the port will be suspended from entering.

5. During the period of heavy fog and restricted visibility, the application for ships to leave the port shall be in accordance with the following rules:
- (1) When during the heavy fog period in Suao Port, those who meet the requirements in point (2) below may apply for permission to depart.
 - (2) After meeting the following requirements and consulting between the captain and the pilot, the captain shall confirm and submit the "Ship's Equipment Checklist For Outbound Due To Heavy Fog" (see Annex3-1). After forwarded to the Harbor Management Department Office, and approval granted by the manager and director, it will be permitted to depart:
 - A. Relevant port marine service can fully cooperate with the operations
 - B. The main engine, auxiliary engine, windlass, steering gear, radar, VHF, automatic ship identification system (AIS) and other navigation equipment are operating normally.
 - C. The ship shall keep the lowest steerageway.
 - D. Both sides anchors at bow are standby.
 - (3) Outbound ships shall keep a safe distance in sequence. The pilot should guide the ship to the breakwater as much as possible and then disembark from the ship.
 - (4) During the suspension period, ships participating in combat and rescue missions are exempted from the restrictions of point 5 (2), and they have the priority of entry and departure after receiving approval from VTS controller.
 - (5) During the heavy fog period, ships shall cooperate and keep a listening watch to radio broadcasts and keep away from the fairway as much as possible. Our service ships shall notify the VTS if violation is founded.
 - (6) Only one ship is allowed to enter the port (including military and patrol) or leave the port each time. The pilot should lead the ship to the outside of the port, away from the breakwater and then report to the VTS controller for

approval before disembarking.

- (7) The VTS controller broadcasts every 3 minutes on Channel 14 of the port network: "The XX ship departs from the XX terminal and is currently sailing. If there is a ship occupying the channel, leave immediately." VTS continues to monitor the whole process with AIS.
 - (8) During the heavy fog period, the captain confirms with the pilot whether the tugboat of Port Service and escort to the breakwater port for outbound operations is needed.
 - (9) Ships that are authorized to leave the port during the heavy fog must fill in the "Ship's Equipment Checklist For Outbound Due To Heavy Fog ", and ensure that during the departure period, any accident that causes port facilities or damage to other ships, the ship owner will and the captain himself is willing to bear all liability for damages. In case of a crime involved, it will be handled in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations.
6. After the fog disperses and the outline of the Suao Lighthouse can be seen by the VTS during the day (night), the application for entry and exit of ships will be resumed and notified according to the procedure at point 3. The temporary suspension of application for entry and exit will be halted.