

GUIDELINES FOR THE ISSUE OF HARBOUR TOWAGE LICENCES

1. Port authorities will consult with the shareholding Ministers before commencing any process which may lead to the issuing, granting or entering into any licence, approval, contract or service arrangements with any person or body corporate for the provision of towage services within its port.
2. When consulted under paragraph 1 above, the shareholding Ministers will consider the following matters:
 - (a) all relevant legislation;
 - (b) the impacts on port users and other relevant stakeholders;
 - (c) the net benefits of the proposed arrangements including the consideration of longer term issues such as continuity of towage services, efficiency of the tug fleet and whether the operating arrangements are consistent with the ongoing safety of towage and port operations;
 - (d) whether the transitional arrangements which the port authority intends to implement will ensure that the risks relating to the provision of towage services or the safety of the port operations within the port are minimised;
 - (e) the process which the port authority intends to follow before issuing, granting or entering into any licence, approval; contract or service arrangement, including, the measures to be taken by the port authority to ensure the probity of the proposed process; and,
 - (f) any other matters which the shareholding ministers consider to be in the public interest.
3. As part of the consultation process with the shareholding Ministers in terms of paragraph 1 above, port authorities should provide written material addressing the matters set out in paragraphs 2(b) 2(c) 2(d) and 2(e) above.
4. Prior to making any final decision in relation to the issuing, granting or entering into any licence, approval, contract or service arrangement with any person or body corporate the port authority will advise shareholding Ministers.