



TOWAGE REQUIREMENTS SHARPNESS PORT; GLOUCESTER AND SHARPNESS CANAL AND THE RIVER SEVERN

1. Introduction.

The following guidelines and requirements relate to towage operations within Canal & River Trust waters, being Sharpness Port, Gloucester and Sharpness Canal and the River Severn from Gloucester to Stourport on Severn.

Towage operations may include the provision of assistance to an operational vessel, the movement of 'dead' vessels and the movement of barges and floating equipment and plant into, out of or within the waterway area.

These requirements form part of the formal risk assessment process and are under continuous review. The following assumptions have been made in preparing these guidelines:

- Standard vessel, single screw with no bow/stern thrusters, no high efficiency rudder or other manoeuvring aids.
- Favourable weather conditions
- Tug and Tow's maximum beam <8.5m
- Tug and Tow's Maximum air draft <38m

Other vessels will be assessed on an individual basis.

These requirements are intended to assist ships masters, agents, pilots and the Trust in facilitating the safe and effective movement of vessels.

In all circumstances the master/pilot and tug master shall, as part of the passage plan and risk assessment process, agree how the operation will be conducted, what dangers are associated with towing in restricted visibility and what risk reduction measures should be applied.

When operations involving small vessels (e.g. coded vessels, non-coded vessels, barges or vessels without propulsion and/or crew) are proposed, other than in an emergency, a towage plan/method statement must be submitted to the waterway minimum of 48h in advance of the proposed time of commencement of the operation. A checklist must be completed and submitted to the waterway. The towage plan/method statement must include the following detail:

1. Which port the barge/vessel is going to or coming from
2. Arrangements for recovery and streaming emergency towline
3. Communication method between barge and tug, and shore side (VHF74)
4. Confirmation that the level of qualification and training of personnel manning the barge and tug is at least the minimum required for the class of vessel and area of operation, including any necessary local knowledge and towing endorsements
5. Dimensions of barge/vessel and tug including details of any cargo carried by the barge
6. Minimum speed of tow.



7. Confirmation that a general health and safety risk assessment has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) Regulations 1997

The final decision on the number of tugs required rests with the master of the vessel. However, the waterway reserves the right to require a vessel to take a tug or comply with any special instruction which may be necessary according to the particular circumstances of the case.

Additionally discussion concerning towing operations may be necessary in view of prevailing weather and any other special circumstances.

In ALL cases a towage plan (including minimum speed) must be submitted to the waterway a minimum of 48h in advance of the proposed time of commencement of the operation. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in delay.

2. Visibility

If Canal & River Trust deem that visibility is too poor to conduct towing operations, all operations must cease immediately until visibility has improved.

3. Tug Boat Licencing

In order to attain the correct licence to tow vessels on our waterway the following conditions must be met:

1. successful towage application
2. a commercial insurance policy that provides cover to a value of £3m to cover damage or injury caused by you, your boats or your staff, and third party liability.
3. payment of £150 upon receipt of invoice.
4. the tow plate is displayed at all times whilst navigating on our waters.
5. The tow plate must be returned to Sharpness Port Authority once the agreed licence period is over. Failure to return the towing plate upon completion of the towing operation will incur a charge of £300.



APPLICATION FOR TOWAGE OPERATION

Please complete this form as fully as possible. We will use this information to assess your proposals for navigational safety, water resource and other likely impacts on the waterway.

Customer Details (the legal entity responsible for the towing operation and paying the fee)	
Towing Company Name:	
Name of Principal Contact:	
Billing Address:	
Contact Telephone Number:	
Contact Email Address:	
Date of Submission:	
Proposed Date of Tow:	

Boat details		
	Towing Vessel	Vessel to be Towed
Boat Name:		
Boat Type: (e.g barge, tug, tall ship)		
Length (m):		
Beam (m):		
Draught (m):		
Air Draught (m):		
Number of Crew :		
Powered/Unpowered:	N/A	
Manned/Unmanned:	N/A	
Minimum speed to maintain steerage:		



Details of proposed towing operation	
Start location:	
Destination location:	
Crew Qualifications: (STCW/MCA/RYA)	
Vessel Certification: (Minimum Boat Safety Scheme or equivalent required)	
Towing equipment	
Type of tow line: wire / synthetic / combination*	
Max. length of tow line (m):	
Is an emergency towline rigged and accessible?	Yes / no*
Is a method of quick release provided?	Yes / no*
Is lighting fitted as required by COLREGS?	Yes / no*
Has method statement been provided?	Yes / no* (Copy to be provided to waterway)

Mandatory Compliance (*delete as applicable)	
Life Saving Appliances:	Yes / no*
Fire fighting equipment:	Yes / no*
Risk Assessment: (Health and Safety)	Yes / no* (Copy to be provided to waterway)

Insurance details (a copy must be provided to the Trust prior to operations)	
Towage insurance details:	
Insurance Provider:	
Policy Number:	
Expiry Date:	

Submission Checklist – For Internal Use Only	
Completed Application form	
Risk Assessment	
Method Statement	
Copy of Insurance (3 rd Party Liability/Public Liability)	
Payment/Invoice	

All forms and relevant documentation should be sent to
Sharpness.PortOperations@canalrivertrust.org.uk

or post to:
Canal & River Trust, Navigation House, Sharpness, Berkeley, GL13 9UD