

Travelling whilst away from your home mooring

Condition 5 of the 2021 revised terms and conditions says that if you have a home mooring, you must travel on a journey on the waterway whilst you are away from your home mooring, stopping only for short periods (defined as 14 days or less if a local restriction applies).

This requirement to travel is the same as it's always been - we have changed the wording to add more information to make it clearer and provided more practical guidance.

What it means to "travel on a journey" on the waterway depends upon the period of time your boat is away from its home mooring. It does not have to be over a certain duration, distance or range, or follow a single direction. It cannot contain short, repeated movement in a small part of the waterway for an extended period, unless you return to the home mooring between repeated trips. The longer the boat spends away from its home mooring, the greater the range of movement expected. As an extreme, if you never returned to your home mooring for the entire period of your licence, we would expect you to travel on a continuous journey. In contrast, however, if your boat spends the majority of the time on its home mooring and only leaves to travel for short periods of time, then the range of movement expected for each journey will be much more limited.

To explain further, every time you return to your home mooring (provided this is not just for a nominal period in an attempt to circumvent the requirement), your journey ends and "the clock" is effectively re-set. The next time you leave, you start on a new journey, the extent of which will depend upon the time spent away from the home mooring. If you are away for just a weekend, that journey will be quite short in terms of distance. On the other hand, if you are away from your home mooring for several weeks or months, we would expect to see a much greater range of movement.

For example, it would be perfectly acceptable to leave your home mooring for the weekend, travel a short distance and moor for 48 hours and then return to your home mooring. This pattern of movement could be repeated on several weekends throughout the year. However, shuttling between locations close together, neither of which is your home mooring, for an extended period is not acceptable as that shuttling is not "travelling on a journey".