



Basic Operating Procedures Effective April 1, 2022

For the purpose of these Procedures, there are defined zone areas for the Port of Freeport ship channel. Procedures for each zone are independent of the procedures for other zones.



- Zone 1 - FP Buoy to Beacon 12**
- Zone 2 - Beacon 12 to Beacon 20**
- Zone 3 - Beacon 20 to Stauffer Channel**
- Zone 4 - Upper Turning Basin to Brazos Harbor Turning Basin**
- Zone 5 - Upper Turning Basin to the Stauffer Turning Basin**

Special considerations & items to note that pertain to each zone.

Recommended operating draft – may be reduced due to silting or shoaling based on current soundings. Draft recommendation is for the navigable channel only and available draft at terminals may vary. Terminals should be contacted directly for actual water depth alongside the docks.

Pilotage Requirements – unless otherwise stated 1 pilot is required. Transits that require 2 pilots, both pilots will be billed at full pilotage rate including draft and unit charge.

Adopted Mar 10, 2022 by the Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Ports of Brazoria County

PO Box 2246 * Freeport, TX 77542 * 979-233-1120 * Fax 979-233-7071 * www.brazospilots.com

Brazos Pilots Association
Basic Operating Procedures
Effective March 2022
Page 2 of 2

Day Light Restricted – is defined as a vessel movement that is restricted to daylight hours beginning at sunrise or 1 hour before sunset, contact Brazos Pilots for latest first pilot and last pilot times

Night Transit – is defined as a vessel movement that begins less than 1 hour before sunset and prior to sunrise, contact Brazos Pilots for latest first pilot and last pilot times.

Special Services/Operations – are handled on a per job basis and require a one-time waiver to the Basic Operating Procedures. These vessels will be billed under “Special Services” and will be by “Specific Agreement” prior to the transit. Special Services require 2 pilots for transit, both pilots will be billed at full pilotage rate including draft and unit charge.

Tug Recommendations – all tugs are expected to be a Tractor Tug with a minimum bollard pull of 55 tons unless otherwise noted. Final configuration, number of tugs, bollard pull of tugs and type of ship assist tugs used will be determined by the pilot on a case-by-case basis during consultation with the ship’s master. The pilot may change the recommended tugs based on his best judgement determined by the vessel and present current and/or weather conditions and other factors to be considered.

Boarding Arrangements – Pilots may refuse to board a vessel, if in their opinion, the boarding arrangement is not constructed according to accepted maritime conventional recommendations, or present a clear danger to the pilot, or is broken, worn or deployed incorrectly.

Ordering pilots, Detentions, Cancellations, Changing Orders and Holding Times

- I. Ordering Pilots – a minimum 2-hour notice is required (3 or more hours are preferred)
- II. Detention charges shall be billed for every hour after the first ½ hour, excluding weather, from the time of pilot order when:
 - a. A vessel is not ready to move at the ordered time or. If a pilot boards the vessel and it is not dropping lines to sail within ½ hour, the pilot may cancel the order -a detention fee plus two (2) cancellation fees will apply.
 - b. A vessel is not at the pilot station for pilot boarding at the ordered time
- III. Cancellation of Vessel Movement or Changes to Pilot Orders:
 - a. Inbound vessel:
 - i. With less than 2-hour notice, one (1) cancellation fee
 - ii. If vessel is not available or order cancelled at the time of order the charge is two (2) cancellation fees
 - b. Outbound & Shifting vessel:
 - i. With less than 1-hour notice, one (1) cancellation fee
 - ii. If vessel is not ready at the time of order the charge is two (2) cancellation fees
 - iii. If pilot boards the vessel and it is not ready to sail and another ship is waiting to move, the pilot may immediately leave the delayed vessel and proceed to the vessel which is waiting. Two (2) cancellation fees will apply.
- IV. Holding charge shall be billed for every hour after the first ½ hours when:
 - a. A vessel requests a pilot to hold the vessel alongside a dock or bank
 - b. A vessel requests a pilot stand by while a compass is calibrated, navigational or mechanical equipment is being repaired.
 - c. A pilot is unable to disembark a vessel within 45 minutes of first line

Adopted Mar 10, 2022 by the Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Ports of Brazoria County

PO Box 2246 * Freeport, TX 77542 * 979-233-1120 * Fax 979-233-7071 * www.brazospilots.com

Brazos Pilots Association
Basic Operating Procedures
Effective March 2022
Zone 1 FP Sea Buoy to Beacon 12 (FLNG)

I. Vessel Dimensions

- a. Maximum Length – 984ft (300m)
- b. Maximum Beam – 170ft (51.813m)
- c. Maximum Channel Depth – 45ft (13.715m)
- d. Recommended Operating Draft – 42ft (12.8m) fresh water

II. Pilotage Requirements ****See Night Transits for pilotage required during night hours**

- a. Inbound & Outbound 2 pilots required:
 - i. Length >820ft (249.923m)
 - ii. Beam >145ft (44.193m)
- b. Special Services/Operations (waiver required) apply to vessels inbound & outbound:
 - i. Length >984ft (300m)
 - ii. Beam >170ft (51.813m)
 - iii. Draft >42ft (12.8m)
 - iv. Vessels with unusual types of floating equipment

III. Daylight Restrictions & Night Transits - the following daylight restrictions and night transits apply:

- a. Daylight restricted vessels are:
 - i. Inbound/Outbound or Shift:
 1. Length >984ft. (300m)
 2. Beam >170ft (51.813m)
 3. Draft >42ft (12.8m)
- b. Night transits that require 2 pilots:
 - i. Inbound/Shift to:
 1. Length >750ft (228.588m)
 2. Beam >107ft (32.612m)
 3. Length >700ft (213.349m) with a draft >36ft (10.972m)
 - ii. Outbound/Shift from:
 1. Length >750ft (228.588m) and beam >125ft (38.098m) with a draft >36ft (10.972m)
- c. Night transit Special Services/Operations (waiver required) for vessels:
 - i. Inbound/Outbound or Shift
 1. Length >820ft (249.923m)
 2. Beam >145ft (44.193m)
 3. Draft >42ft (12.80m)

IV. Tug Assistance Recommendations

- a. Inbound and Outbound:
 - i. Length <984ft (300m) – 4 tugs with combined 285 ton bollard pull or more, no tug can be less than 60 ton bollard pull
 - ii. Length >=984ft (300m) – 4 tugs with combined 300 ton bollard pull or more, no tug can be less than 60 ton bollard pull
 - iii. LNG night transits – 4 tugs with combined 300 ton bollard pull or more, no tug can be less than 60 ton bollard pull
 - iv. Tug crew must have done a prior FLNG transit

Adopted Mar 10, 2022 by the Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Ports of Brazoria County

PO Box 2246 * Freeport, TX 77542 * 979-233-1120 * Fax 979-233-7071 * www.brazospilots.com

Brazos Pilots Association
Basic Operating Procedures
Effective March 2022
Zone 2 Beacon 12 to Beacon 20 (Dow Chemical & Seaway/Enterprise)

I. Vessel Dimensions

- a. Maximum Length – 910ft (277.354m)
- b. Maximum Beam – 160ft (48.765m)
- c. Maximum Channel Depth – 45ft (13.715m)
- d. Recommended Operating Draft – 42ft (12.8m) fresh water
- e. Restrictions – A14W no vessel in or out with vessel at A8

II. Pilotage Requirements ****See Night Transits for pilotage required during night hours**

- a. Inbound & Outbound 2 pilots required:
 - i. Length >820ft (249.923m)
 - ii. Beam >145ft (44.193m)
- b. Special Services/Operations (waiver required) apply to vessels:
 - i. Length >910ft (277.354m) or
 - ii. Beam >160ft (48.765m)
 - iii. Draft >42ft (12.80m)
 - iv. Dow A14 vessels with beam >107ft (32.612m)
 - v. Dow A13 vessels
 - vi. Unusual types of floating equipment
 - vii. Shifting vessels without power
 - viii. Vessels leaving the ship channel

III. Daylight Restrictions & Night Transits - the following daylight restrictions and night transits apply:

- a. Daylight restricted vessels are:
 - i. Arrival/Shift to:
 1. Seaway/Enterprise length >910ft (277.354m)
 2. Beam >160ft (48.765m)
 3. Dow A14 Vessels length >600' (182.88m) or beam >100' (30.48m)
 4. Dow A13
 - ii. Departure/Shift from:
 1. Seaway/Enterprise length >910ft (277.354m)
 2. Beam >160ft (48.765m)
 3. Dow A13
 - iii. Barges being towed on the wire ****barge must be manned prior to pilot boarding**
 - iv. Dead ship movements
 - v. Vessels judged by the pilot unsafe for handling after dark will be daylight restricted
- b. Night transits that require 2 pilots:
 - i. Arrival:
 1. Length >750ft (228.588m)
 2. Beam >107ft (32.612m)
 3. Length >700ft (213.349m) with a draft >36ft (10.972m)
 - ii. Departure/Shift:
 1. Length >750ft (228.588) and beam >125ft (38.098M) and draft >36ft (10.972m)
- c. Night transit Special Services/Operations (waiver required) apply to vessels:
 - i. Arrival & Departure:
 1. Length >820ft (249.923m)
 2. Beam >145ft (44.193m)
 3. Draft >42ft (12.80m)

Adopted Mar 10, 2022 by the Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Ports of Brazoria County

PO Box 2246 * Freeport, TX 77542 * 979-233-1120 * Fax 979-233-7071 * www.brazospilots.com

IV. Tug Assistance Recommendations.

- a. Arrival:
 - i. Vessels length <750ft (228.588m) -2 tractor tugs
 - ii. Vessels length >750ft (228.588m) or beam >107ft (32.612m):
 - 1. Inbound:
 - a. Ballast day or night -3 tractor tugs
 - b. Loaded
 - i. Day -2 tractor tugs
 - ii. Night -3 tractor tugs
 - iii. Dow A14 length >615ft (187.442m) – 3 tractor tugs
- b. Outbound:
 - i. Vessel length <830ft (252.971m) SW3 ballast or SW2 loaded day or night 2 tractor tugs
 - ii. SW3 draft >36ft (10.972m) day or night 3 tractor tugs
 - iii. Dow vessels length <600ft (182.871) A22 only -operational bow thruster or 1 tractor tug
- c. Arrival/Outbound:
 - i. Vessels length >830ft (252.971m) -3 tractor tugs: 2-55 ton bollard pull + 1-75 ton bollard pull
 - ii. Vessels length >910ft (277.354m) or beam >160ft (48.765m) tugs determined per Special Services one-time waiver to the Basic Operating Procedures
 - iii. Dow vessels <13,500 tons displacement to A22 and A8 -1 tractor tug
 - iv. Dow A14 beam >107ft (32.612m) tugs determined per Special Services waiver
 - v. Dow A13 2 tractor tugs

Brazos Pilots Association
Basic Operating Procedures
Effective March 2022

Zone 3 Beacon 20 to Stauffer Channel (P66 and Port Freeport 6, 7 & 8 docks)

I. Vessel Dimensions

- a. Maximum Length – 820ft (249.923m)
- b. Maximum Beam – 145ft (44.193m)
- c. Maximum Channel Depth – 45ft (13.715m)
- d. Recommended Operating Draft – 42ft (12.800m) fresh water
- e. Passing restriction in place:
 - i. P66 dock 2 – a combined beam < 257ft (78.329m) of both the moored and passing vessel

II. Pilotage Requirements ****See Night Transits for pilotage required during night hours**

- a. Inbound & Outbound 2 pilots required:
 - i. Ro/Ro type vessels or other vessels with restricted visibility and/or extreme freeboard
- b. Special Services/Operations (waiver required) apply to vessels:
 - i. Length >820ft (249.923m)
 - ii. Beam >145ft (44.193m)
 - iii. Draft >42ft (12.80m)
 - iv. Arriving or departing BH6 with length >800ft (243.828m) or beam >107ft (32.612m)
 - v. Unusual types of floating equipment
 - vi. Shifting vessels without power
 - vii. Vessels leaving the ship channel

III. Daylight Restrictions & Night Transits

- a. Daylight restricted vessels are:
 - i. Arrivals/Shifts to:
 1. Ro/Ro type vessels or other vessels with restricted visibility and/or extreme freeboard
 2. Port Freeport dock 6
 - ii. Departures/Shifts from:
 1. Port Freeport dock 6
 - iii. Barges being towed on the wire ****barge must be manned prior to pilot boarding**
 - iv. Dead ship movements
 - v. Vessels judged by the pilot unsafe for handling after dark
- b. Night transits that require 2 pilots:
 - i. Arrivals and Departure and Shifts:
 1. Length >750ft (228.588m)
 2. Beam >107ft (32.612m)
 3. Length >700ft (213.349m) with a draft >36ft (10.972m)
 - ii. Departures/Shifts:
 1. Ro/Ro type vessels or other vessels with restricted visibility and/or extreme freeboard
- c. Night transit Special Services/Operations (waiver required) apply to vessels:
 - i. Length > 820ft (249.923m)
 - ii. Beam > 145ft (44.193m)

IV. Tug Assistance Recommendations

- a. Vessels length <500ft (152.392m) 1 tractor tug + operational bow thruster or 2 tractor tugs
- b. Vessels length <775ft (236.208m) 2 tractor tugs
- c. Vessels length >775ft (236.208m) 3 tractor tugs inbound only Port Freeport docks #7 and 8
- d. Vessels length >800ft (243.828m) 3 tractor tugs inbound and outbound Port Freeport docks #7 and 8
- e. Ro/Ro type vessels
 - i. With operational bow thruster -2 tractor tugs
 - ii. Without operational bow thruster -3 tractor tugs
 - iii. Winds in excess of 20 knots -3 tractor tugs + operational bow thruster

Adopted Mar 10, 2022 by the Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Ports of Brazoria County

PO Box 2246 * Freeport, TX 77542 * 979-233-1120 * Fax 979-233-7071 * www.brazospilots.com

Brazos Pilots Association
Basic Operating Procedures

Effective March 2022

Zone 4 Upper Turning Basin to Brazos Harbor Turning Basin (BASF & Port Freeport 5, 1, 2 & 3 docks)

- I. Vessel Dimensions
 - a. Maximum Length –
 - i. Docks 1, 2 & 3 – 775ft (236.208m)
 - ii. Dock 5 – 660ft (201.158m)
 - b. Maximum Beam – 135ft (41.145m)
 - c. Maximum Channel Depth – 36ft (10.972m)
 - d. Recommended Operating Draft – 36ft (10.972m) fresh water
 - e. Passing and other restrictions in place:
 - i. Port Freeport dock #3 (BH3) if combined beam vessel moored at BH3 and passing vessel:
 1. >180ft (54.861m) – barges alongside P66 dock 4 will suspend operations and assure adequate mooring
 2. >200ft (60.957m) – BH3 will be cleared prior to passing
 - ii. P66 dock 2 passing vessel moored, combined beam must be < 257ft (78.329m)
- II. Pilotage Requirements ****See Night Transits for pilotage required during night hours**
 - a. Inbound & Outbound 2 pilots required:
 - i. Ro/Ro type vessels or other vessels with restricted visibility and/or extreme freeboard
 - ii. Dock #5 length 625ft (190.490m)
 - b. Special Services/Operations (waiver required) apply to vessels:
 - i. Length >775ft (236.208m) dock 1, 2 & 3
 - ii. Length >660ft (201.158m) dock 5
 - iii. Beam >135ft (41.145m)
 - iv. Draft >36ft (10.972m)
 - v. Unusual types of floating equipment
 - vi. Shifting vessels without power
 - vii. Vessels leaving the ship channel
- III. Daylight Restrictions & Night Transits
 - a. Daylight restricted vessels are:
 - i. Arrivals/Shifts to:
 1. Ro/Ro type vessels or other vessels with restricted visibility and/or extreme freeboard
 2. Port Freeport Dock 5 length >625ft (190.49m)
 - ii. Departures/Shifts from:
 1. Port Freeport Dock 5 Ro/Ro type vessels or other vessels with restricted visibility and/or extreme freeboard
 2. Port Freeport Dock 5 length >625ft (190.49m)
 - iii. Barges being towed on the wire ****barge must be manned prior to pilot boarding**
 - iv. Dead ship movements
 - v. Vessels judged by the pilot unsafe for handling after dark will be daylight restricted
 - b. Night transits that require 2 pilots:
 - i. Arrivals, Departures & Shifts:
 1. Length >750ft (228.588m)
 2. Beam >107ft (32.612m)
 3. Length >700ft (213.349m) with a draft >36ft (10.972m)
 - ii. Departures/Shifts:
 1. Ro/Ro type vessels or other vessels with restricted visibility and/or extreme freeboard
 - c. Night transit Special Services/Operations (waiver required) apply to vessels:
 - i. Length >775ft (236.208m)
 - ii. Beam >135ft (41.145m)
 - iii. Draft >36ft (10.972m)

Adopted Mar 10, 2022 by the Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Ports of Brazoria County

IV. Tug Assistance Recommendations

- a. Vessels length <500ft (152.392m) – 1 tractor tug + operational bow thruster or 2 tractor tugs
- b. Vessels length >500ft (152.392) – 2 tractor tugs
- c. Ro/Ro type vessels
 - i. With operational bow thruster – 2 tractor tugs
 - ii. Without operational bow thruster – 3 tractor tugs
 - iii. Winds in excess of 20 knots – 3 tractor tugs + operational bow thruster

Basic Operating Procedures

Effective March 2022

Zone 5 -Upper Turning Basin to the Stauffer Turning Basin (Freeport Launch & all berths up river of Freeport Launch)

- I. Vessel Dimensions
 - a. Maximum Length – 300ft (91.435m)
 - b. Maximum Beam – 75ft (22.858m)
 - c. Maximum Channel Depth – 16ft (4.876m)
 - d. *Recommended Operating Draft – 14ft (4.266m) fresh water

- II. Pilotage Requirements
 - a. Special Services/Operations (waiver required) apply to vessels:
 - i. Length >300ft (91.435m)
 - ii. Beam >75ft (22.858m)
 - iii. Draft >14ft (4.266m)
 - iv. Unusual types of floating equipment, vessels with restricted visibility and/or extreme freeboard, vessels that have unusual maneuvering characteristics, vessels underpowered or vessels pilots deem needed to maneuver safely
 - v. Shifting vessels without power
 - vi. Vessels leaving the ship channel

- III. Daylight Restrictions & Night Transits
 - a. Daylight restricted vessels are:
 - i. Length >300ft (91.435m)
 - ii. Beam >75ft (22.858m)
 - iii. Draft >14ft (4.266m)
 - iv. Barges being towed on the wire **barge must be manned prior to pilot boarding
 - v. Dead ship movements
 - vi. Vessels judged by the pilot unsafe for handling after dark will be daylight restricted

- IV. Tug Assistance Recommendations
 - a. This area is too shallow for the tractor tugs to operate, any vessel arriving or departing must make special arrangements for tugs with shallow draft <14ft (4.266m) to do the maneuver safely
 - b. Recommended minimum horse power for push boat is 900hp

Adopted Mar 10, 2022 by the Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Ports of Brazoria County

PO Box 2246 * Freeport, TX 77542 * 979-233-1120 * Fax 979-233-7071 * www.brazospilots.com