

The following Notice to Mariners is published for general information

Australia – Victoria

No. 148 (T) - 2025

**PORT OF MELBOURNE
TOWAGE REQUIREMENTS**

Date: 14 March 2025

Refers: NtM 107 (T) - 24 and is hereby cancelled
NtM 389 – 23

Details: Mariners and port users are advised of updated towage requirements for **container vessels** with a LOA $\leq 310\text{m}$ and with a beam $>42.9\text{ m}$ to $\leq 48.2\text{ m}$ when arriving and departing Swanson Dock with immediate effect.

Here attached updated *Harbour Master's Directions, Table 3(I)* for the current minimum towage requirements and wind limits.

Should a further change to minimum towage requirements and wind limits be identified, *Table 3(I)* will be updated and repromulgated by Notice to Mariners.

For further information, please email the Navigation Services department at NavigationServices@ports.vic.gov.au or contact Melbourne VTS on 9644 9700.

Charts & Publications affected: Harbour Master's Directions – Melbourne Edition 13.1, September 2023, section 3.21, Table 3(I)

Further notice: Further notice will be issued.



Stephen D'Souza
Acting Harbour Master

Table 3(l) Minimum towage requirements and wind limits

Towage category	Arrival	Departure	Wind limits	Additional remarks
Car Carriers: Appleton Dock	2	2	Steady wind >20 kt or gusts >25 kt: movements suspended	In order to protect mooring infrastructure at Appleton Dock berths, during periods when steady winds reach 20 knots or gusts of 25 knots are observed from the West to the North-East (270° to 045°), a tug will be mandated to standby to assist in keeping the vessel safely alongside the berth. At least 1 x Tier 1 tug
Car Carriers: Webb Dock	2	2	Steady wind >20 kt or gusts >25 kt: movements suspended	When a Strong wind warning or greater is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology for Port Phillip waters from the South through to North-West quadrant, a car carrier moored alongside any of the berths at West Webb must make use of the storm bollards provided, otherwise a tug will be mandated to standby the vessel for the expected duration of the warning. At least 1 x Tier 1 tug
Coastal vessels with Pilot Exempt Master: at dedicated berths 1 & 2 Webb Dock East, South Wharf	1	1	Steady wind >30 kt or gusts >35 kt: movement subject to risk assessment carried out by the Master.	The following coastal vessels are exempt from the minimum towage requirements.: <i>Tasmanian Achiever II</i> , <i>Victorian Reliance II</i> , <i>Liekut</i> , <i>Searoad Mersey II</i> .
Container vessels: Swanson Dock & Webb Dock LOA >130 m to <290 m	2	2	Steady wind >30 kt or gusts >35 kt: movements suspended	
Container vessels: Swanson Dock & Webb Dock LOA ≥290 m to <295 m	2	2	Steady wind >25 kt: movements suspended	Tier 1 tugs only
Container vessels: Swanson Dock LOA ≥ 295 m to ≤ 310 m and beam of ≤42.9m	2	2	Steady wind >20 kt: movements suspended	Tier 1 tugs only

This notice is a direction of the Harbour Master pursuant to section 232 of the *Marine Safety Act 2010* (Vic)
The requirements of section 232(2) have been taken into account.

Towage category	Arrival	Departure	Wind limits	Additional remarks
Container vessels: Swanson Dock LOA ≤ 310 m and beam >42.9 m to ≤48.2 m	3	3	Refer 3.16.17	Refer 3.16.17 Tier 1 tugs only
Container vessels: Swanson Dock only LOA >310 m to ≤ 337 m	3	3	Refer 3.16.17	Refer 3.16.17 Tier 1 tugs only
Container vessels: Webb Dock LOA ≥ 295 m to ≤ 310 m	2	2	Steady wind >20 kt: movements suspended	Tier 1 tugs only
Container vessels: Webb Dock only LOA >310 m to ≤ 337 m	3	3	Movements suspended when steady wind >15 kt.	Refer 3.16.17 Tier 1 tugs only
Cruise vessels	See Remarks	See Remarks	Steady wind >20 kt and gusts >25 kt: movement subject to specific risk assessment between Master and Pilot. A movement must not commence if the steady wind >30 kt.	Refer to Operational Instruction in force for navigational controls for cruise shipping at Station Pier.
Other than large tanker: Gellibrand Pier (displacement <100,000 t)	2	2	Steady wind >30 kt or gusts >35 kt: movements suspended	Tier 1 tugs only
Other than large tanker: Gellibrand Pier (displacement >100,000 t)	3	2		
Large tankers: Gellibrand Pier (displacement <70,000 t)	2	2	Steady wind >20 kt if from the South East to the South West quadrant or steady wind >25 kt: movements suspended	Large tanker = vessel with a LOA >260 m and beam >45 m Tier 1 tugs only
Large tankers: Gellibrand Pier (displacement >70,000 t)	3	2		

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The requirements of section 232(2) have been taken into account.

Towage category	Arrival	Departure	Wind limits	Additional remarks
General minimum towage requirements (for all berths and vessel types not specified elsewhere in this table)				
Other: LOA 100 m to <130 m	1	1	Steady wind >30 kt or gusts >35 kt: movements suspended	
Other: LOA ≥ 130 m to ≤ 270 m	2	2		

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Ports Victoria Notices to Mariners can be downloaded from the website, www.vicports.vic.gov.au