

7.7 PEC procedure

Applicants for a pilotage exemption to operate marine construction vessels in the Port of Gladstone are required to:

1. Attend an Introduction to Gladstone Harbour Workshop.
2. Undertake local knowledge training on water for 40 hours, including 16 hours at night (20 hours [including eight hours at night] of which must be on vessels that master is to command).
3. Successfully complete a local knowledge exam and receive a local knowledge qualification.
4. Apply to MSQ for pilotage exemption by submitting the following:
 - application for marine pilotage qualification
 - current medical
 - original qualifications (Qld MC4/MC5 or PEC)/copy of interstate MC4/MC5 and so on.
 - copy of local knowledge qualification
 - passport photos
 - fees.
5. Obtain an MSQ-issued temporary authority to enable applicant to complete supervised mentor trips.
6. Successfully complete mentor trips (minimum of six trips on passage and vessel for which exemption is sought – in and out = one trip). Mentor trips must be undertaken under the supervision of an MSQ pilot, restricted pilot or senior master approved in writing by the RHM.
7. Successfully complete MSQ issued written exam, including chart.
8. Successfully complete check pilot assessment with restricted pilot or MSQ pilot.
9. Submit the following to MSQ:
 - completed check pilot assessment
 - completed exam and chart
 - letter of recommendation from check master.
10. Obtain MSQ-issued temporary authority for pilotage exemption until original certificate is issued.

On providing MSQ with a correctly completed and endorsed application for marine pilotage qualification form, including a restricted pilot assessment report indicating that the restricted pilot's opinion that the applicant is competent, and payment of the prescribed fee, a pilotage exemption for the Port of Gladstone may be issued.

The decision whether to issue a pilotage exemption, and if any conditions are imposed, will be made by the Regional Harbour Master (Gladstone).

Endorsements are valid for a period of two years and are subject to a minimum number of voyages specified by the RHM being undertaken in that period.

7.7.1 Auditing

Holders of pilotage exemptions granted by MSQ will be subject to audits conducted by MSQ personnel.

These audits may include verification of records of service and check pilot observational assessments conducted onboard routine movements to verify the holders' practical ship handling ability and local knowledge.

A check pilot refers to a person who is licensed under a regulation as a pilot and who is authorised by the RHM to assess an applicant's competence.

MSQ officers or delegate will also perform 'check pilot' audits onboard observation, supervisor trips, and practical examination trips to verify the performance of restricted pilots.

7.7.2 Alternative procedures

The use of the procedure described here is recommended but voluntary. The demand for pilotage to support existing trade vessel operations in the port will restrict MSQ's ability to provide pilotage services to construction craft or provide training and assessment of pilotage exemption.

Applicants who do not wish to employ a restricted pilot may apply for pilotage exemption using the existing MSQ procedure. This procedure is subject to the availability of licensed pilots and delays in movements and the obtaining of the necessary experience may occur.