

Mariners are reminded that the use of inappropriate or dangerously weighted heaving lines (DWHL) by vessels engaged in mooring and/or towing operations puts line handlers and operators at serious risk.

Clydeport Mooring Guidelines are published at:

<https://www.peelports.com/media/onmgbppb/clydeport-mooring-guidelines-jun-21.pdf>.

Attention is drawn to section 10.1 Heaving Lines which details good practice and what will not be accepted at Clydeport Terminals or within the port area.

Evidence of the use of DWHL should be reported to clydemarinemanagers@peelports.com using the Peel Ports Marine Incident Report Form where possible.

Line handlers in Clydeport terminals will confiscate the dangerous weight from any lines received and the Harbour Master will inform the MCA for investigation and potential enforcement action. Any investigation of a dangerously weighted heaving line will attract the appropriate charge as per Clydeport Schedule of Charges.

Links to further industry guidance as follows:

A UK joint industry group issued the following statement on DWHL in March 2021

<https://www.portskillsandsafety.co.uk/files/2021-03/Joint%20Industry%20Second%20Notice%20Against%20DWHLs%20-%20March%202021.pdf>

The MCA has also issued a Safety Bulletin on the use of DWHL:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safety-bulletin-2-dangerously-weighted-heaving-lines>

Further guidance is contained in Ch26, section 26.3.5 in the 2015 edition of the Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seafarers which states: *“Vessels heaving lines should be constructed with a “Monkeys Fist” at one end. To prevent personal injury the “Fist” should be made only with rope and should NOT contain added weighting material”.*