Wellington Regional Council

Harbourmaster's Direction 9A/2022

Conditions for loading logs on deck

1. Preamble

This direction is issued pursuant to section 33F of the Maritime Transport Act 1994 (the **MTA**) enabling the Harbourmaster to ensure maritime safety.

Large commercial shipping shares the use of Wellington Harbour with small commercial vessels (including harbour ferries) and an assortment of recreational craft. Lost cargo, specifically logs creates a significant navigation hazard to other harbour users.

2. Application

This applies to any vessels intending to load commercial logs as deck cargo after 1 January 2023.

3. Navigation Requirements

Under MTA 33F(1)(c)(iii) and (iv) vessels loading logs on deck may only do so when:

1. The logs are a minimum of 3.6m long, and
2. The weather is dry, and
3. The immediate recovery of logs from the harbour is possible i.e. when weather/sea and recovery vessel operating parameters allow the recovery boat to be deployed safely.

4. Liability

The Wellington Regional Council shall not, in any case, be responsible for any loss or damage or costs arising from this direction.

N G Nalder
Regional Harbourmaster
Wellington Regional Council
07 November 2025