

General Direction No: 14¹

Navigation in approach channels

References:

A. GD 8 – Harbour Limits

B. International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972 (as amended)

C. Charts British Admiralty (BA) 1137 and 3278

1. Leisure vessels should, as far as is reasonable and practicable, keep clear of commercial vessels approaching or departing St Helier on the recognised approach channels and in the precautionary area as marked on the BA Charts.
2. For the purposes of the COLREGS (Reference B) Rule 9, the channel marked on Chart 3278 inshore of the East Rock Buoy including the Small Road is designated as a “Narrow Channel”. Larger vessels navigating between Demie de Pas and Passage Rock Buoy should be similarly considered to be navigating in narrow channels. Attention is specifically drawn to Rule 9 (a) requiring a vessel to keep as near to the outer limit of the channel or fairway which lies on her starboard side as is safe and practicable and Rule 9 (b) requiring a vessel of less than 20m or a sailing vessel not to impede the passage of a vessel which can safely navigate only within a narrow channel.
3. Vessels under sail navigating inshore of the East Rock Buoy fitted with a working engine are, if unable to otherwise comply with the requirements of Rules 9 (a) and (b) as identified above, to use motor power to navigate through this channel.
4. Vessels under sail navigating inshore of the East Rock Buoy **not** fitted with a working engine are, if unable to otherwise comply with the requirements of Rules 9 (a) and (b) as identified above, to call St Helier VTS on VHF channel 14 before entering the Precautionary Area to advise VTS of their limitations and to seek guidance and/or assistance as required.
5. Pre-arranged sailing events approved by the Harbour Master are exempted from the requirements above for the times specified. Event organisers must maintain contact with St Helier VTS and timings may be adjusted to deconflict events from commercial movements.



Captain P J A Buckley

Harbour Master, Jersey Harbours

1st August 2016

¹ This General Direction is issued under the authority of the Harbours (Jersey) Regulations 1962 – Regulations 3