



## **Operational Notice**

**NO 4 OF 2021**

(For distribution to Belfast Harbour General Use Stevedores)

### **Revised Inspection Regime and Notification to Use Equipment**

As you are now aware, in recent weeks, BHC has conducted an internal review of its systems and processes for hire of cranes and related equipment.

The conclusion of this part of the review is that from Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> of April the manner in which BHC will perform its pre-hire checks is described below.

These pre-hire checks as far as reasonably practicable will be conducted no more than 24 hours prior to the commencement of the hire period when the crane is positioned for work.

Unless any issues arise as a result of this pre-hire check, it will be valid for the duration of the agreed hire period.

This is considered, also to include non-working days and occasions where an operation may be understood as continuous, with a crane moving between ships within a short time, but remaining in the control of the same operator.

There may be occasions when the pre-hire check will be conducted on the morning of the commencement of the crane hire but Port Operations will liaise with the Stevedores to prioritise the customer and ports efficiency requirements and minimise disruptions, should this arise.

To assist this it would be helpful if requests for crane hire could be received as soon as practicable but no later than 1200 on the preceding day of hire to enable appropriate planning of resources.

Whilst BHC will endeavour to deliver services as requested, bookings received after this time may be subject to delays in their setup and pre-hire checks.

It must also be noted that permission to operate equipment must be received from Belfast Harbour prior to the commencement of starting BHC equipment.

Initially from Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April this permission will be received via automated email from the Port Management Information System (PMIS) once Operations Engineering confirmed the crane has been setup and all pre-hire checks completed. Port Operations will be in contact with individual companies to discuss this in detail.

BHC are continuing to work with SAAB, the PMIS provider, to look at other options for notifications and should the procedure change we will advise through an updated Operational Notice.

Should clarification on the availability of equipment be required please contact Port Operations using the existing procedures.

BHC has been grateful for your co-operation to date and will continue to work with you all to deliver safe and efficient services.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K G Allen', written in a cursive style.

PORT CONTROL  
BELFAST  
31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

CAPTAIN K G Allen  
HARBOUR MASTER