

**Title:** Bridge Wing Shelters for Pilotage Operations

**Reference:** <https://ampi.org.au/media-release-ampi-supports-the-call-for-sun-shelters-on-bridge-wings-for-pilots/>

### Scope

Vessel Masters and Operators – Vessels arriving and departing the port of Newcastle

### Background

To provide a safe working environment and enhance safety and efficiency during pilotage operations, Newcastle Harbour is introducing requirements for **Bridge Wing Shelters**. By protecting pilots from weather and environmental elements and reducing fatigue, these shelters support a safer, more effective working environment.

Effective **1 October 2026**, all vessels must meet the following minimum requirements:

### Minimum Requirements\*\*

- 1) The shelter is to extend a minimum of 1.50 m inboard from the outer edge of the bridge wing.
- 2) The fore-and-aft dimension of the shelter is to extend, as a minimum, from the forward extremity to the aft extremity of the bridge wing.
- 3) The height of the shelter, measured from deck level, is to be at least 2.45 m. Where a vessel is fitted with a raised deck, grating, or platform at the bridge wing edge, the shelter is to be raised accordingly.
- 4) Bridge wing shelters may be portable or removable, as required, and are to be strong enough capable of withstanding winds experienced in Newcastle.
- 5) The design and rigging of the shelter are to prevent the accumulation of water within the shelter frame during rain.

*\*\*Bridge wing shelters that comply with the requirements of Panama Canal Authority OP Notice to Shipping N-1-2022, as amended, are acceptable. Alternative arrangements, including portable shelters, that provide equivalent or greater levels of protection and visibility **may** also be considered acceptable.*

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What are the implications if my vessel is unable to comply with the requirements after 01 October 2026?**

After 01 October 2026, vessels which do not comply with the HMI requirements must submit an exemption request, supported by relevant documentation, to the Harbour Master at least 7-days before the scheduled berthing for review and consideration.

### **Should the vessel operator have any other considerations when designing the bridge wing shelters?**

The design of the bridge wing shelter must allow unrestricted visibility from the bridge wing.