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| Overview | This standard covers the competence required when moving another vessel, or object, in a controlled manner through towing and/or pushing that vessel, when towing is being undertaken by vessels other than tugs.  For brevity, ‘tow' is used throughout this standard. However, wherever the term tow, or towing, is used in this standard it should be taken to apply to pushing as well, such that the standard applies equally to towing and/or pushing.  The standard applies to towing/pushing in port, inland and coastal waters, and covers   1. pulling behind, 2. pushing ahead, 3. towing alongside, 4. multiple tows.   **Target Group**  This standard applies to individuals at the operational level with responsibility for towing and/or pushing other vessels or objects in inland or coastal waters, and who work singly or in small crews. |

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| **Performance criteria**  You must be able to: | 1. inspect the vessel to be towed and establish correctly that it is safe to tow to the planned destination 2. inform the relevant authority promptly where you assess the vessel to be unfit for towing, stating the reasons clearly 3. where necessary, ensure that all statutory, regulatory and other requirements for the tow are identified and met, and comply with all navigational, reporting and warning requirements 4. assess the circumstances affecting the requirement for a tow, and determine correctly any risks involved 5. plan the tow, identifying correctly the actions required, taking into account the characteristics of the tow, and any relevant navigational restrictions, determining the best method for towing 6. establish and maintain clear and appropriate communications between your vessel and that to be towed 7. brief all concerned clearly and correctly on the actions to be taken, ensuring that everyone understands their role and the emphasis upon safety 8. prepare correctly all necessary equipment for towing and rigging, checking for damage prior to taking a tow, making good and reporting any faults before use 9. identify where the transfer of a crew member to the vessel to be towed would assist the towing operation, and, where relevant, undertake such a transfer safely and correctly 10. rig, secure and deploy the towing equipment correctly, taking necessary actions to protect both vessels and to minimise the effect of chafe 11. ensure that the correct audible and visual signals indicate towing 12. monitor the tow, and make any necessary adjustments correctly and safely 13. establish communications with those receiving the tow and other relevant authorities, and ensure that preparations for receiving the tow on arrival are in place 14. disengage the tow correctly and safely |

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| Knowledge and understanding  You need to know and understand: | 1. statutory, regulatory and other requirements affecting towing within your area of responsibility, including requirements regarding the correct audio and visual signals to indicate towing, navigational, reporting and warning requirements on towing operations and the impact of these on your own operations 2. factors to consider when assessing whether a vessel is fit for towing 3. factors to take into consideration when planning to take a vessel under tow, their impact upon the towing method, and how to make contingencies in addressing any uncertainties when planning the tow 4. navigational restrictions which may affect a towing operation 5. different methods of towing, and their relative advantages and disadvantages 6. principal risks associated with towing, and how these are addressed, including the actions to take in an emergency 7. safety procedures relating to crew operations when working with lines on deck 8. circumstances where it is beneficial to transfer a crew member to the vessel to be towed, and how to do this safely 9. securing arrangements, including where and how to secure the towing equipment to your vessel and the vessel to be towed, and how different conditions affect the securing operation 10. the importance of checking the towing equipment for chafe and damage, the causes of chafe and how to minimise its affect 11. techniques for throwing a heaving line/bolas, and the safety precautions to be taken when passing a line 12. the precautions to be taken to avoid damage to either vessel 13. the process of disengaging the tow in both normal and emergency conditions |

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