

**SKIPPERS NOTES – Yacht Sea Essay of Hamble**

**Newsletter No 01/2021**

## **Introduction**

This is an occasional document issued by the Yacht Secretary on behalf of the CSD Committee, which will be placed on the CSD website and/or sent to all CSSA approved Skippers in CSD when there is new and/or important operational information to promulgate. There is no intention to produce newsletters on a regular basis. Each one is numbered in sequence every year so recipients can identify if any are missing.

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## **Sailing To/From the UK**

Please make yourselves aware of the content of Notice 8 issued by HM Customs and Revenue and as précised in Southampton Notice to Mariners No21 (T) of 2021.

## **Portsmouth Harbour Entrance**

The QHM at Portsmouth has issued Direction No 1/21 Portsmouth Harbour Entrance - Approach Channel, Small Boat Channel, Swashway and Inner Swashway. Whilst it appears to be a re-issue of 02/17 updated after the QE Carrier dredge work, you should be aware that, in accordance with paragraph 12, contravention is a criminal offence and there is a new QHM who may be keen to make a mark. Full item can be found at:  
<https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/qhm/portsmouth/local-notices/general-directions/2021/2101-harbour-ent-approach-chan-sb-channel-swashway>

## **Protecting Shore Power Connections**

It goes without saying that the shore power mains supply to the boat should always be protected from damp and water. The bulkhead connector on the boat has been replaced



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and now has a hinged cover which should be lowered and screwed shut when the shore power leads are removed (photos on last page)

Whilst weather proof the plug and socket connecting the blue meter lead to the yellow extension lead should be kept out of the water by securing it to a suitable point on the boat or the shore.

When not in use the power leads should be disconnected, coiled with the same care as warps and hung in the port lazarette.

## Exercise Sea Cocks

You are reminded of the action required by the Closedown Checklist to exercise all Sea Cocks and leave them open. This has particular importance to the aft head discharge sea cock which if left shut can cause a build-up of solid waste and scale eventually blocking the holding tank outlet.

## Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)

Radar and VHF radio transmission frequencies produce non-ionising radiation which does not disrupt cell structures but can cause burns and a rise in internal body temperature.

There are 2 primary EMF sources onboard Sea Essay which could pose a threat to individuals, the radar transmitter (scanner) and the main radio antenna. But with both being mounted on the mast well above head height and beyond their respective safe distances of 1m and 2.25m they can have no detrimental effect on individuals at deck level.

The obvious problem arises when someone is required to ascend the mast to a point that would bring them within those safe distances. You are therefore reminded to ensure that neither system is transmitting before anyone attempts to ascend the mast. The radar must be disabled by switching off the Plotter. If for emergency reasons is necessary for the radio to remain on then you must ensure that no transmissions are made whilst an individual is at the top of the mast.

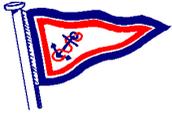
Some background:

The main radio has an output of 25 Watts on high power and the antenna provides a gain of 3dBi (x2) giving the potential for up to 50W being radiated during transmissions. Using the Ofcom EMF calculator tool that level of power output dictates a 2.25m safe distance.

The radar operating at 9405MHz has a peak power output of 4kW but because it is pulsed with a relatively long duty cycle the average power is significantly less than that leading to the safe distance of 1m.

You should also be aware of the warnings associated with the use of the handheld radio. On high power this outputs 5 Watts so not in the same league as the main radio but you are advised not to hold it with the antenna closer than 2.5cm (1 inch) to exposed skin particularly the head and eyes. The manual states that the transceiver will perform best if the microphone is 5 to 10 cm away from the lips and the transceiver is vertical.

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