



## **NOTICE TO MARINERS**

**No. 02 – 2026**

### **WEIGHTED HEAVING LINES IN MOORING OPERATIONS**

Notice is hereby given that the master's and crews of vessels visiting Shoreham Port are required to use properly constructed heaving lines for all mooring and towing operations. The use of 'weighted' heaving lines is both prohibited and extremely dangerous and may cause serious injury or a fatality to those on the receiving end ashore or onboard the tug.

The MCA issued Safety Bulletin No.2 highlighting the problem of dangerously weighted heaving lines. This Safety Bulletin (a copy of which is attached hereto).

If any Lockmaster, Huffer or Tug Master suspects that a heaving line thrown is dangerously weighted, they are requested to:

- a) Remove the suspect weight/monkey's fist from the heaving line.
- b) Send the suspect weight/monkey's fist with details of the vessel concerned, vessels Agent and date/time of the incident to the Harbour Master.
- c) The incident will be reported to the MCA.

Julian Seaman  
Harbour Master

02 January 2026

**Owners, Agents, Charterers, Marinas, Yacht Clubs and Recreational Sailing Organisations should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the master's or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.**



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

# SAFETY BULLETIN

## No. 2

### DANGEROUSLY WEIGHTED SHIPS HEAVING LINES

There have been several instances where dangerously weighted heaving lines, including the use of monkey's fists with additional weights inserted into them, have been used resulting in serious injury. Further guidance is contained in Ch 26 section 26.3.5 in the 2015 edition of the Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seafarers.



Vessels using dangerously weighted heaving lines in the UK may be subject to prosecution