

Line Handling Procedure Guideline for Taking Lines at Grain Terminals (Seattle/Tacoma)

A. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this guideline is to ensure the safe and efficient procedure of taking mooring lines at grain terminals in Puget Sound. The guideline is also intended to reduce the possibility of dock damage due to the vessel's bow being pulled to the dock should the spring lines suddenly run short of slack while the vessel is still moving forward.

B. PROCEDURES:

1. Upon the vessel's approach to the dock, the Line Superintendent shall contact the Pilot, via VHF radio, to confirm that the vessel will be stopping short of its final berthing position by approximately 100-120 feet.
2. The line handlers will have been instructed, by the Line Superintendent, to not take the spring lines until the vessel is alongside.
3. The forward spring lines will be lowered to the line handlers, who will then place the lines on an appropriate bitt.
4. Once the forward spring lines are on the bitt, the Pilot will have the vessel shifted ahead to its final position.
5. When the vessel is near its final position, the aft spring lines will then be placed on an appropriate bitt.
6. The bow and stern lines will be sent to the line handlers when the spring lines are fast.