

**Pilotage is compulsory for all French and foreign flag vessels and any warship transiting through the inner routes of the New Caledonian barrier reef.**

The following vessels are granted a permanent pilotage exemption:

- French merchant vessels less than 60 meters in LOA
- French merchant vessels not exceeding 60 meters LOA and registered in NC
- Vessels dedicated to the maintenance and dredging of the New Caledonian ports , roads and their access. The exemption remains valid only when the vessel is engaged in its specified activity.
- Foreign warships when sailing along with French Navy ships. Pilotage is compulsory on initial arrival and when leaving the domestic waters.

**Provided that an exemption certificate be granted , valid only in some specific areas** the following vessels may sail without any NC pilot on board:

- French commercial vessels over 60 meters LOA engaged in coastal trade for at least 4 consecutive months with no interruption in excess of 1 month ( Not including dry docking)
- Foreign merchant vessel with less than 60 meters LOA engaged in a permanent activity in the New Caledonian Economic Area

Extract from pilotage decree n°10-2006/AM – Items 3 and 4