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| Overview | This standard covers the competence required to control operations on board the tug. It includes controlling preparation, connection, adjustment and disconnection of the tow in all conditions, and maintaining internal and external communications.  **Target Group**  This standard applies to individuals at the operational level who control tug operations on any size vessel working in any operational area. |

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| **Performance criteria**  You must be able to: | 1. plan and progress the work in accordance with legislation and industry 2. ensure specialised preparation equipment is used in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations and instructions 3. take appropriate action in the event of irregularities and report to the relevant bodies 4. confirm that the operations necessary to complete preparation are fully carried out 5. ensure that connecting, adjusting and disconnecting the tow is in accordance with instructions and safe working practice 6. successfully use on-board systems for internal and external communications 7. correctly identify and respond to sound signals and special port signals in respect of tug operations 8. maintain the working area in a safe condition throughout the operation 9. apply contingency procedures to malfunctioning equipment promptly and effectively 10. ensure that the procedures used for emergency operation of towing equipment comply fully with contingency plans and minimise personal risk 11. shut down and secure the equipment on completion of the operation in accordance with operational requirements |

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| Knowledge and understanding  You need to know and understand: | 1. different types of tug equipment and the equipment required for routine operations 2. characteristics, including safe working load and breaking strain, of different types of rope, wire, chain, shackles and links 3. winch construction including spooling devices 4. anti-pollution equipment: chemicals; masts and booms; wash boards; pumps; hoses and nozzles. 5. fire fighting equipment: fixed and portable monitors (water and foam); water curtains; pumps and associated portable equipment 6. how to connect, control, adjust and disconnect the tow 7. how to operate equipment in contingency situations and in rough seas 8. tug construction with respect to watertight integrity when securing the vessel 9. use of protective clothing; guarding of machinery; safe movement on board ship 10. the application of Statutory Regulations and guidelines, organisational instructions and guidance and vessel contingency plans |

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