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Administration de Pilotage des Laurentides  
Laurentian Pilotage Authority

July 17th, 2014

**Subject: Obligation to Have a Helmsperson Available on the Bridge**

This is a follow up to a directive which was issued in April 2004 on the noted matter Transport Canada and the Laurentian Pilotage Authority wish to address a reminder to the maritime industry.

The master of a vessel has an obligation to ensure that a qualified helmsman is available at all times and immediately to return to the helm when the autopilot is used in areas of high density traffic, reduced visibility or any other difficult circumstances, such as the St. Lawrence Seaway where pilotage is compulsory, in compliance with the *Marine Personnel Regulations* Division 4 Section 247, *Steering Appliances and Equipment Regulations* Sections 7 and 8, and *STCW Code (Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers)* Part A, Section VIII- Part 4-1.

Vessels found to be non-compliant will be subject to prohibition to proceed until the situation is resolved. In addition, those vessels may be subject to administrative sanctions from Transport Canada. Our aim is to ensure safe navigation in order to prevent accidents and to protect the environment.

**Michel Boulianne**  
Directeur régional

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