28 October 2026

Circular No.: GPPL/MAR/03/2026

TO:

The Vessel Masters / Shipping Agents (Tanker Vessels)

Calling at APM Terminals Pipavav

SUBJECT: Identification of Tail Rope During Mooring Operations of Tankers

INNER TAIL ROPE = RED MASKING TAPE

Mark the inner tail rope before arriving at the berth and brief all mooring personnel.

1. Purpose

This circular introduces a simple rope-identification requirement for all tanker vessels calling at APM Terminals Pipavav. Marking the **inner tail rope** with **RED masking tape** allows the vessel crew, mooring boat operators and shore mooring crew to tell it apart from the outer tail rope at a glance. This prevents crossed mooring lines and makes berthing safer and time efficient.



Overview: How RED tape marking prevents crossed mooring lines

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2. The Problem: Rope Confusion During Transfer



Before: Ropes twisted during transfer

During mooring of tanker vessels at APM Terminals Pipavav, the mooring boat collects **two tail ropes together** from the vessel – an **inner tail rope** and an **outer tail rope** – and carries them to the shore.

On reaching the shore, the boat operator hands over both mooring lines to the shore mooring crew.

Because both ropes look alike, it is often unclear which is the inner rope, and which is the outer rope. The risk of mix-up is higher at night and in poor weather.

When the ropes are mixed up, the mooring lines end up **crossed or twisted (cross-mooring)**, as shown in the image above. Crossed lines create safety hazards for mooring personnel, can compromise how securely the vessel is held alongside, and delay berthing operations.

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3. The Requirement: RED Tape Identification



Solution: RED tape marking on inner tail rope

To ensure safe and efficient mooring, **all tanker vessels calling at Pipavav are required to clearly identify their tail ropes before arriving at the berth**, as follows:

1. **Mark the INNER tail rope with RED masking tape or similar marking**, as shown in the image above.
2. **Make the marking clearly visible** – from a distance and in all lighting conditions – to the vessel crew, mooring boat operators and shore mooring crew.
3. **Brief all mooring personnel** on this identification system before mooring operations begin (Masters and Chief Officers).

This simple visual marking removes confusion and ensures the ropes are handled in the correct sequence.

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4. Expected Outcome: Safe and Efficient Mooring



After: Ropes clearly identified to avoid twisting

With the RED tape marking in place, the critical rope-transfer stage becomes clear and safe:

- The boat operator can confidently identify the inner and outer ropes, including during hand-over to the shore mooring crew.
- Ropes stay organized throughout the mooring process, as shown in the image above.
- Crossed mooring lines are prevented and operational delays are reduced.
- Most importantly, safety risks to mooring personnel are eliminated.

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5. Responsibility and Compliance

Who	Action
Master / Chief Officer	Ensure the inner tail rope from outward and inward head & stern lines are marked with RED masking tape before arrival at berth and brief all mooring personnel before mooring operations begin.
Vessel mooring crew	Apply the RED tape clearly and pass the inner and outer tail ropes to the mooring boat.
Mooring boat operator	Use the RED tape to identify the inner rope when handing over lines to the shore crew.
Shore mooring crew	Receive and secure the RED-marked inner rope and the outer rope in the correct order, without crossing.

Masters and Chief Officers shall ensure that all mooring personnel are briefed on this requirement before mooring operations begin.

The Vessel Master remains solely responsible and accountable for ensuring compliance with safe mooring practices, applicable statutory requirements, and relevant OCIMF/ISGOTT guidelines.

Reference photographs are included above for guidance.

This circular is issued for your information and necessary compliance.

For, Gujarat Pipavav Port Limited

Harbour Master

For

GUJARAT PIPAVAV PORT LTD. PIPAVAV

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