

Procedure of granting permission for the escorting of ships along the Northern Sea Route

I. Procedure of granting permission for ships proceeding en route toward the Northern Sea Route from sea without cargo handling in ports of the Russian Federation

1. Submission of applications and declarations about the readiness of ships to navigate the Northern Sea Route.

Applications for the escorting of ships along the Northern Sea Route are submitted to the Northern Sea Route Administration in accordance with item 3.1 of the Regulations for Navigation on the Seaways of the Northern Sea Route, 1990.

Procedure of the submission of applications and of the required information is specified in item 2 of the Regulations for Icebreaker and Pilot Guiding of Vessels through the NSR (hereinafter referred to as the Regulations)

Applications are submitted by shipowners or masters of ships not later than 15 days before the beginning of traffic in the water area of the NSR. It is recommended to submit applications in advance. The NSR Administration accepts applications for consideration within the time period from 4 months to 15 days before the beginning of traffic in the water area of the NSR.

In addition to applications, to facilitate administrative actions on granting permissions, shipowners and masters of ships send to the NSR Administration declarations according to the attached example signed by master of ship and shipowner.

2. Consideration of applications and declarations

According to item 2.3 of the Regulations, the NSR Administration considers applications for not longer than 10 days and informs the applicants of the appropriate decision.

3. Granting permissions.

After the NSR Administration has considered applications and declarations, either permissions in accordance with the set form for the escorting of ships along the Northern Sea Route are issued or a reasoned refusal is sent to the applicant.

II. Procedure of granting permission for ships proceeding toward the Northern Sea Route from inland water ways and sea ports of the Russian Federation

1. Submission of applications about the readiness of ships to navigate the Northern Sea Route.

Applications for the escorting of ships along the Northern Sea Route are submitted to the Northern Sea Route Administration in accordance with item 3.1 of the Regulations for Navigation on the Seaways of the Northern Sea Route, 1990.

Procedure of the submission of applications and of the required information is specified in item 2 of the Regulations for Icebreaker and Pilot Guiding of Vessels through the NSR (hereinafter referred to as the Regulations)

Applications are submitted by shipowners or masters of ships not later than 15 days before the beginning of traffic in the water area of the NSR. It is recommended to submit applications in advance. The NSR Administration accepts applications for consideration within the time period from 4 months to 15 days before the beginning of traffic in the water area of the NSR.

2. Consideration of applications

In order to determine the compliance of ships with the established requirements the survey of ships is carried out before their exit to the Northern Sea Route. Survey of ships is carried out by sea port masters in accordance with article 79 of the Code of the commercial navigation, Order № 140 of 20.08.2009 and “the Requirements for the Design, Equipment and Supplies of Vessels Navigating the NSR” each time ship is leaving a sea port proceeding towards the NSR.

The NSR Administration may refuse to grant the permission due to the following reasons:

- prohibitions or restrictions imposed in compliance with the established legislation;
- inconsistency with the requirements set for ships navigating the NSR;

- refusal of making agreement for the icebreaker escorting if ice conditions and the ice class of ship call forth such necessity.

3. Granting permissions.

After the NSR Administration has considered applications, either permissions in accordance with the set form for the escorting of ships along the Northern Sea Route are issued or a reasoned refusal is sent to the applicant.

If in the course of the ship's survey the seaport master detects defects jeopardizing the safe navigation of ship in the water area of the NSR, the sea port master performing the survey refuses to grant for ship the permission to leave the sea port in accordance with article 80 of the Code of the commercial navigation, even if the ship has the permission to navigate in the water area of the NSR issued by the NSR Administration.

III Order of priority of escorting ships along the Northern Sea Route

During the whole period of the navigation along the Northern Sea Route ships are under the surveillance of the Headquarters of Marine Operations of west and east realizing the coordination of ship flows, providing ships with a pilot, icebreaker support and notifying ship masters of the ice and hydrometeorological conditions.

Headquarters of the marine operations, depending on ice conditions, specify and provide for the following types of escorting: icebreaker escorting, escorting according to the instructions of the Headquarters of Marine Operations for the recommended routes to a definite geographic point (item 1.4 of the Regulations for Icebreaker and Pilot Guiding of Vessels through the NSR).

1. Order of priority of the icebreaker escorting of ships along the Northern Sea Route.

In accordance with item 2.12 of the Regulations for Icebreaker and Pilot Guiding of Vessels through the NSR the priority is established by the Headquarters of Marine Operations. Date and point of the beginning of the icebreaker escorting of ships are stipulated in the agreement for the icebreaker escorting concluded between shipowner and icebreaking fleet operator

2. Priority of the escorting of ships according to the instructions of the Headquarters of Marine Operations for the recommended routes to a definite geographic point.

This type of escorting is used for ships navigating in ice-free areas of the Northern Sea Route or for ships with ice class enabling them to independently proceed along the Northern Sea Route under given ice conditions.

In the latter case the escorting priority is not fixed. Ship departs for the voyage as soon as she is ready to depart (after receiving the permission of the Northern Sea Route Administration and/or registration of ship for leaving the sea port).