

# Port Heavy Weather Conditions

## Port Heavy Weather Conditions

Port Heavy Weather Conditions are set by the Coast Guard Captain of the Port (COTP) Honolulu for commercial ports and are used to manage port restrictions needed to protect life, vessels, facilities, and the environment. National Weather Service products assist in determining timelines for the setting of Port Conditions. Port Conditions will adjust for each specific commercial port as the threat of severe weather increases.

Port Heavy Weather Conditions will be provided simultaneously with specific requirements to port stakeholders via Marine Transportation System Recovery Unit (MTSRU) phone calls or emails, Marine Safety Information Bulletins, Broadcast Notice to Mariners on VHF-16 and 22A, and Coast Guard HOMEPORt website postings.

*Port Conditions are set contingent upon the storm's course and speed. Should the storm increase in speed, Port Conditions may be accelerated.*

Tropical Storm Force Wind Arrival	PORT CONDITIONS
SEASONAL ALERT (Jun 1-Nov 30)	N/A
72 HOURS	WHISKEY
48 HOURS	X-RAY
24 HOURS	YANKEE
12 HOURS	ZULU

## Whiskey & X-Ray

Tropical Storm Force Winds (39 mph) are expected within 72/48 hours.

*To enter, transit, or remain within the port, vessels must comply with the following requirements:*

1) The COTP **may** restrict the operations of, or deny entry into the port to, vessels carrying oil or certain

hazardous materials as cargo. The COTP will seek to minimize the number of vessels >200 GTs in port. Operators of vessels >200 GTs wishing to remain in port must submit a mooring plan to the Coast Guard and Hawaii Department of Transportation Harbors Division (DOT-Harbors), if they want to moor at a State owned or operated harbor.

2) The COTP, in consultation with DOT-Harbors, will review each request to remain in port on a case-by-case basis. Requests to remain in port can be found through DOT-Harbors website ([Harbors | Hurricane Preparedness \(hawaii.gov\)](http://Harbors.HurricanePreparedness.hawaii.gov)). These requests should be emailed to SecHonoMTSRU@uscg.mil and the appropriate DOT-Harbors email from their website.

3) Vessels with permission to remain in port should be moored to piers designed to moor vessels of their respective size during heavy weather. Open areas of piers should be cleared of possible debris hazards. Timely correction of hazardous conditions may significantly eliminate or reduce the loss of life and property damage during heavy weather.

4) Vessel transits will be permitted so long as it is safe under forecasted weather conditions. Commercial vessels that desire to anchor in Pearl Harbor must submit their vessel information, reason and intent to COTP through the MTSRU via email for Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam port entry approval as soon as practical. Pearl Harbor has limited space for emergency anchoring.

5) At Port Heavy Weather Condition X-Ray all vessels should prepare to complete cargo operations and depart port within 36 hours. Early coordination with Harbor Pilots is essential during port evacuations.

## Yankee

Tropical Storm Force Winds (39 mph) are expected within 24 hours.

*In addition to the requirements of Port Condition X-Ray, the below are in effect:*

1) Port is closed to incoming traffic without specific approval of COTP. Unless specifically approved by the COTP, cargo operations must stop within the next 12 hours and lightering and bunkering are to cease.

2) The USCG works closely with DOT-Harbors through the MTSRU for vessel movements. Vessel operators are encouraged to coordinate with DOT-Harbors through the MTSRU to make arrangements in advance to remain in port.

3) If vessels or facilities refuse to follow the COTP safety recommendations or fail to make adequate preparations, the COTP will issue orders to require appropriate actions.

4) A safety zone may be enforced to close harbor entry for harbor(s) within the COTP zone when Port Condition Yankee is set, restricting vessel entry, and will remain in effect until terminated by the COTP.

## Zulu

Tropical Storm Force Winds (39 mph) are expected within 12 hours.

*In addition to the requirements of Port Condition Yankee, the below are in effect:*

1) Port is closed.

2) No terminal, facility or vessel operations are permitted and any vessel entering or transiting within the port without specific COTP permission.

## Recovery

Port re-opening will be closely coordinated by the MTSRU to reduce the risk of damage to vessels, and to assess the conditions of channels, piers, aids to navigation, waterfront facilities, or other infrastructure.

## EXAMPLES of Vessels over 200 GTs



*MARJORIE C.* Container & vehicle ship.  
GT: 26,000, Length/Width: 692/106 feet



*DANIEL K. INOUE.* Container ship.  
GT: 48,409, Length/Width: 854/114.8 feet



*Kaholo* - Young Brothers Vehicle Barge  
Length/Width: 330/86 feet

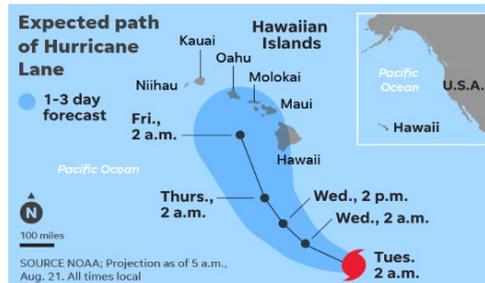


*Pride of America.* Cruise Ship  
GT: 80,439, Length/Width: 850/106 feet

## Hurricane Season Preparedness

The COTP will set Hurricane Season Preparedness for Hawaii from June 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup> and for American Samoa from November 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>. Each hurricane season, port users shall take the time to review their heavy weather plans for all vessels and facilities.

Vessels will generally **NOT** be permitted to enter or remain in lay-up status for Hurricane Season.



*Hurricane Lane - 2018: Illustrates a storm track prompting the progression of Port Conditions.*

## Recovery Activities

Storms have the potential to cause a range of damage to the port. Post storm assessments can reveal if the port suffered damage which may affect or disrupt the maritime transportation system.

The MTSRU has the sole focus on re-opening the port for after a disruption. It is primarily staffed by Coast Guard and other government personnel and is augmented by local marine industry experts and harbor stakeholders.



**Captain of the Port Honolulu  
Port Heavy Weather  
Conditions**

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(808) 842-2600**

**MTSRU**  
[SecHonoMTSRU@uscg.mil](mailto:SecHonoMTSRU@uscg.mil)

**Sector Honolulu Command Center**  
[SCCHonolulu@uscg.mil](mailto:SCCHonolulu@uscg.mil)

**Coast Guard HOMEPORT Website**  
<https://homeport.uscg.mil/port-directory/honolulu>

