

Night Vision: OOCL Hong Kong

This video shows the night time berthing of the OOCL Hong Kong, a 20,413 TEU capacity container ship at the Port of Felixstowe's Landguard Terminal in the UK.

Navigating along an approach channel and berthing a container ship is a highly skilled job especially for a ship the size of the OOCL Hong Kong which is nearly 400m long and 59m wide. A night time arrival adds further complexity to the operation as the crew on the bridge, known as the bridge team, must keep careful watch.



At all times one or more of the watchkeeping team will be acting as a lookout – continuously watching for hazards such as other ships, objects and navigation lights - to ensure safe navigation.

Ships sailing at night use minimal lighting, which is sufficient to ensure the ship can be clearly seen by other ships but does not impact the night vision of the bridge team. On the bridge itself equipment and instrument displays use low intensity white and red lighting to prevent impacting the night vision of crew.

Container ships entering a port at night seem to magically appear out of the darkness – at first identified only by their navigation lights and lighting along walkways. As it gets closer it becomes a large silhouette against the night sky, and once the ship is safely moored and its lights turned on the ship's superstructure and containers above deck are revealed.

Key Terms

- Approach channel
- Berthing
- Bridge team
- Mooring
- Superstructure
- Watchkeeping

Glossary

Approach channel

Designated navigational route for a ship to enter or leave a port

Berthing

The process of moving a ship alongside and securing it to the quay in a port

Bridge team

Members of a ship's crew who work in the ship's bridge responsible for the safe navigation and operation of the ship

Mooring

The securing of a ship to the shore by ropes or other means

Superstructure

Fixed parts of a ship above the main deck which includes the bridge, accommodation areas, navigation masts and ship's gear

Watchkeeping

A crewing rota system to ensure the safe navigation and operation of a ship 24 hours a day