



**MARINE SAFETY AND SECURITY
INFORMATION BULLETIN
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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Coast Guard Sector San Francisco

Guidance for Temporary Activation of the VTS Continuity Reporting Protocol

This bulletin provides guidance to all Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) Users when VTS San Francisco is unable to provide routine active vessel traffic management services due to personnel, system, or other operational limitations. During these periods, the Coast Guard may activate the VTS Continuity Reporting Protocol (VCRP). Upon activation, notifications will be made to the maritime community via Broadcast Notice to Mariners. The function of providing Maritime Domain Awareness shall remain a primary mission of the VTS.

During activation of the VCRP, VTS will shift to a passive traffic management posture and provide assistance upon request. VTS will maintain communications and monitor the VTS Area; however, VTS will not actively manage, sequence, or direct vessel traffic. Vessel operators assume primary responsibility for safe navigation and traffic deconfliction while transiting the VTS Area.

All vessels shall make position reports on the designated VTS VHF-FM channel at established reporting points within the San Francisco Bay. Unless otherwise directed, reporting requirements remain consistent with standard Vessel Movement and Reporting System (VMRS) procedures. Additional guidance, including reporting points and procedures, is available on the San Francisco Marine Exchange website ([SFMX | Marine Exchange of the San Francisco Bay Region](#)) under the "Quick Links" menu by selecting U.S. Coast Guard.

While transiting the VTS Area, all vessels subject to the VMRS shall comply with VCRP procedures, utilize established traffic routes, and adhere to all applicable Regulated Navigation Area regulations. Vessel operators are strongly encouraged to make additional reports or security broadcasts, as appropriate, regarding observed areas of reduced visibility, hazards to navigation, marine events, or other conditions impacting their respective transit.

For questions concerning VCRP procedures, contact the Sector San Francisco Waterways Management Division at (415) 601-2054 or SFWaterways@uscg.mil. Emergencies should be reported to the Sector San Francisco Command Center on VHF-FM Channel 16.

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