



VTS Continuity Reporting Protocol (VCRP)



U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Coast Guard Sector San Francisco

Introduction

During activation of the VCRP, all vessels shall make position reports on the designated VTS VHF channel at published reporting points within the San Francisco Bay. The exact procedures and reporting points can be found on the San Francisco Marine Exchange website (www.sfmex.org) under the “Quick Links > USCG” drop down menu.

While transiting the VTS Area, all vessels subject to the Vessel Movement and Reporting System (VMRS Users) shall follow the VCRP procedures, use established traffic routes and adhere to the Regulated Navigation Area regulations. Vessel Operators are encouraged to make additional reports or announcements in the blind regarding observed areas of low visibility, possible obstructions to navigation, known marine events, etc.

Definitions

Vessel Movement Reporting System User (VMRS User): Refer to *33 CFR 161.16 – Applicability* for a list of VMRS user vessels. VMRS users are defined as:

- Every power-driven vessel of 40 meters (approximately 131 feet) or more in length, while navigating
- Every towing vessel of 8 meters (approximately 26 feet) or more in length, while navigating
- Every vessel certificated to carry 50 or more passengers for hire, when engaged in trade.

Exempted Vessels: Vessel Movement Reporting System exemptions described in *33 CFR 161.23*. Unless otherwise directed, the following vessels are exempted from providing Position and Final Reports due to the nature of their operation:

- Vessels on a published schedule and route;
- Vessels operating within an area of a radius of three nautical miles or less; or
- Vessels escorting another vessel or assisting another vessel in maneuvering procedures.

Exempted vessels shall continue to make Sailing Plan and Sailing Plan Deviation reports.

Communications

VHF FM Channel 14: VCRP reports for vessels in the VTS San Francisco Inshore Sector.

VHF FM Channel 12: VCRP reports for vessels in the VTS San Francisco Offshore Sector.

VHF FM Channel 13: Bridge to Bridge communications.

VCRP Reporting Process

VMRS Users shall make VCRP reports as described below.

1. Preamble: Give the same preamble for every VCRP report.
 - *SECURITY CALL. This is Unit XX on the bulk carrier ATLAS.*
2. Sailing Plan: Checking into VTS, preparing to get underway.
 - *[Preamble] Preparing to get underway from Pittsburg 3 bound for Redwood City 2. Draft 26'6". Intend west span of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, east of the Alpha Buoy, and Oakland Bay Bridge Delta-Echo span. Tugs on Channel 7 Alpha."*
3. 1st Position: Last Lines, underway.
 - *[Preamble] Pittsburg 3. Underway.*
4. Position - turn complete: If a turn off the dock or in a turning basin is necessary, make a Position report after the turn is complete.
 - *[Preamble] Pittsburg 3. Turn complete.*
5. Position – designated points: Make a "Position Report" at designated reporting points.
 - *[Preamble] New York Point.*
6. Sailing Plan Deviation: If your route intentions change, report your position, then amend your Sailing Plan.
 - *[Preamble] Change of route intentions. We're at North Channel Alpha Buoy bound for Redwood City 2. Intend the Oakland Bay Bridge Alpha-Bravo span instead of the Delta-Echo span.*
7. Additional Reports: Vessel Operators are encouraged to make additional reports or announcements in the blind regarding observed areas of low visibility, possible obstructions to navigation, known marine events, etc.
8. Final: Make a "Final report" when you anchor, moor, or exit the VTS area.
 - *[Preamble] Moored, Redwood City 3. Checking out.*