

**§ 161.13**

(c) As soon as is practicable, a VTS User shall notify the VTS of any of the following:

- (1) A marine casualty as defined in 46 CFR 4.05-1;
- (2) Involvement in the ramming of a fixed or floating object;
- (3) A pollution incident as defined in § 151.15 of this chapter;
- (4) A defect or discrepancy in an aid to navigation;
- (5) A hazardous condition as defined in § 160.203 of this chapter;
- (6) Improper operation of vessel equipment required by Part 164 of this chapter;
- (7) A situation involving hazardous materials for which a report is required by 49 CFR 176.48; and
- (8) A hazardous vessel operating condition as defined in § 161.2.

[CGD 90-020, 59 FR 36324, July 15, 1994, as amended by CGD 95-033, 60 FR 28329, May 31, 1995; CGD 92-052, 61 FR 45326, Aug. 29, 1996; USCG-1999-6141, 64 FR 69636, Dec. 14, 1999]

**§ 161.13 VTS Special Area operating requirements.**

The following operating requirements apply within a VTS Special Area:

- (a) A VTS User shall, if towing astern, do so with as short a hawser as safety and good seamanship permits.
- (b) A VMRS User shall: (1) Not enter or get underway in the area without prior approval of the VTS;
- (2) Not enter a VTS Special Area if a hazardous vessel operating condition or circumstance exists;
- (3) Not meet, cross, or overtake any other VMRS User in the area without prior approval of the VTS; and
- (4) Before meeting, crossing, or overtaking any other VMRS User in the area, communicate on the designated vessel bridge-to-bridge radiotelephone frequency, intended navigation movements, and any other information necessary in order to make safe passing arrangements. This requirement does not relieve a vessel of any duty prescribed by the International Regula-

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tions for Prevention of Collisions at Sea, 1972 (72 COLREGS) or the Inland Navigation Rules.

**Subpart B—Vessel Movement Reporting System**

**§ 161.15 Purpose and intent.**

(a) A Vessel Movement Reporting System (VMRS) is a system used to manage and track vessel movements within a VTS area. This is accomplished by requiring that vessels provide information under established procedures as set forth in this part, or as directed by the VTS.

(b) To avoid imposing an undue reporting burden or unduly congesting radiotelephone frequencies, reports shall be limited to information which is essential to achieve the objectives of the VMRS. These reports are consolidated into four reports (sailing plan, position, sailing plan deviation and final).

**§ 161.16 Applicability.**

The provisions of this subpart shall apply to the following VMRS Users:

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

**§ 161.17 Definitions.**

As used in this subpart: *Published* means available in a widely-distributed and publicly available medium (e.g., VTS User's Manual, ferry schedule, Notice to Mariners).

**§ 161.18 Reporting requirements.**

(a) A VTS may: (1) Direct a vessel to provide any of the information set forth in Table 161.18(a) (IMO Standard Ship Reporting System);

TABLE 161.18(A).—THE IMO STANDARD SHIP REPORTING SYSTEM

A	ALPHA .....	Ship .....	Name, call sign or ship station identity, and flag.
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