

§ 161.13

33 CFR Ch. I (7–1–03 Edition)

TABLE 161.12(c).—VTS AND VMRS CENTERS, CALL SIGNS/MMSI, DESIGNATED FREQUENCIES, AND MONITORING AREAS—Continued

Center MMSI <sup>1</sup> Call Sign	Designated frequency (Channel designation)—purpose <sup>2</sup>	Monitoring area <sup>3,4</sup>
Victoria Traff—003160010 .....	156.550 MHz (Ch. 11) .....	The waters of the Strait of Georgia west of 122° 52' W., the navigable waters of the central Strait of Juan de Fuca north and east of Race Rocks, including the Gulf Island Archipelago, Boundary Pass and Haro Strait.
San Francisco—003669956 San Francisco Traffic .....	156.700 MHz (Ch. 14) .....	The navigable waters of the San Francisco Offshore Precautionary Area, the navigable waters shoreward of the San Francisco Offshore Precautionary Area east of 122°42.0' W. and north of 37°40.0' N. extending eastward through the Golden Gate, and the navigable waters of San Francisco Bay and as far east as the port of Stockton on the San Joaquin River, as far north as the port of Sacramento on the Sacramento River.
San Francisco Traffic .....	156.600 MHz (Ch. 12) .....	The navigable waters within a 38 nautical mile radius of Mount Tamalpais (37°55.8' N., 122°34.6' W.) west of 122°42.0' W. and south of 37°40.0' N and excluding the San Francisco Offshore Precautionary Area.
St. Marys River—003669953 Soo Traffic .....	156.600 MHz (Ch. 12) .....	The waters of the St. Marys River between 45°57' N. (De Tour Reef Light) and 46°38.7' N. (Ile Parisienne Light), except the St. Marys Falls Canal and those navigable waters east of a line from 46°04.16' N. and 46°01.57' N. (La Pointe to Sims Point in Potagannissing Bay and Worsley Bay).

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Maritime Mobile Service Identifier (MMSI) is a unique nine-digit number assigned that identifies ship stations, ship earth stations, coast stations, coast earth stations, and group calls for use by a digital selective calling (DSC) radio, an INMARSAT ship earth station or AIS. AIS requirements are set forth in §§ 161.21 and 164.46 of this subchapter.

<sup>2</sup> In the event of a communication failure, difficulties or other safety factors, the Center may direct or permit a user to monitor and report on any other designated monitoring frequency or the bridge-to-bridge navigational frequency, 156.650 MHz (Channel 13) or 156.375 MHz (Ch. 67), to the extent that doing so provides a level of safety beyond that provided by other means. The bridge-to-bridge navigational frequency, 156.650 MHz (Ch. 13), is used in certain monitoring areas where the level of reporting does not warrant a designated frequency.

<sup>3</sup> All geographic coordinates (latitude and longitude) are expressed in North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83).

<sup>4</sup> Some monitoring areas extend beyond navigable waters. Although not required, users are strongly encouraged to maintain a listening watch on the designated monitoring frequency in these areas. Otherwise, they are required to maintain watch as stated in 47 CFR 80.148.

<sup>5</sup> Until rules regarding VTS Lower Mississippi River and VTS Port Arthur are published, vessels are exempted of all VTS and VMRS requirements set forth in 33 CFR part 161, except those set forth in §§ 161.21 and 164.46 of this subchapter.

<sup>6</sup> A Cooperative Vessel Traffic Service was established by the United States and Canada within adjoining waters. The appropriate Center administers the rules issued by both nations; however, enforces only its own set of rules within its jurisdiction. Note, the bridge-to-bridge navigational frequency, 156.650 MHz (Ch. 13), is not so designated in Canadian waters, therefore users are encouraged and permitted to make passing arrangements on the designated monitoring frequencies.

(d) 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; USCG–2003–14757, 68 FR 39364, July 1, 2003]

**§ 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 Regulations 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 monitor and track vessel movements VTS or VMRS area. This is accomplished by requiring that vessels provide information under established procedures as set forth in this part, or as directed by the Center.

(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 three reports (sailing plan,

position, sailing plan deviation and final).

[CGD 90-020, 59 FR 36324, July 15, 1994, as amended by USCG-2003-14757, 68 FR 39366, July 1, 2003]

**§ 161.16 Applicability.**

Unless otherwise stated, the provisions of this subpart apply to the following vessels and 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.

[CGD 90-020, 59 FR 36324, July 15, 1994, as amended by USCG-2003-14757, 68 FR 39366, July 1, 2003]

**§ 161.17 Definitions.**

As used in this subpart:

*Center* means a Vessel Traffic Center or Vessel Movement Center.

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

[USCG-2003-14757, 68 FR 39366, July 1, 2003]

**§ 161.18 Reporting requirements.**

(a) A Center 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.
B	BRAVO .....	Dates and time of event .....	A 6 digit group giving day of month (first two digits), hours and minutes (last four digits). If other than UTC state time zone used.
C	CHARLIE .....	Position .....	A 4 digit group giving latitude in degrees and minutes suffixed with N (north) or S (south) and a 5 digit group giving longitude in degrees and minutes suffixed with E (east) or W (west); or.
D	DELTA .....	Position .....	True bearing (first 3 digits) and distance (state distance) in nautical miles from a clearly identified landmark (state landmark).
E	ECHO .....	True course .....	A 3 digit group.
F	FOXTROT .....	Speed in knots and tenths of knots.	A 3 digit group.
G	GOLF .....	Port of Departure .....	Name of last port of call.