



Queensland Government
Maritime Safety Queensland

MARINE INFORMATION BULLETIN

COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES FOR THE BRISBANE PILOTAGE AREA, BRISBANE RIVER, MORETON BAY AND THE PORT OF BRISBANE.

Issued November 2007

PURPOSE

To revise and reissue the Marine Information Bulletin on the same topic that was issued in October 2003.

Vessel traffic in the area has increased significantly with close quarter situations between ships operating in the Brisbane Pilotage area, Brisbane River and Moreton Bay occurring more often. A recent Maritime Safety Queensland report concluded that a lack of proper communication was by far the greatest threat to a collision between a ship and another vessel. Hence there is a need to refocus on VHF operation, communications procedures and requirements.

For the purposes of this bulletin, “*ship*” refers to all vessels including those under pilotage, trading, commercial, recreational, and fishing activities operating in the Brisbane Pilotage Area.

REQUIREMENT

- Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994 Section 88 prescribes that a Harbour Master may direct ships to operate in a specific way.
- Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Regulation 2004 Part 7 – Pilotage Areas, Compulsory Pilotage Areas and Pilots
 - Division 4 – Reporting Movements of ships
 - Division 5 – Reporting ships movements to VTS

1: Port Control

Call Sign: **BRISBANE HARBOUR**

Maritime Safety Queensland operates Port Control Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) in the Brisbane Pilotage Area. This service advises ships of traffic in either the Brisbane River or Moreton Bay which could affect their safe transit.

Port Control is the first point of contact for all marine emergencies including marine incidents, marine pollution and navigational hazards. Masters and Operators need to be aware they can be contacted by Port Control to confirm sightings of dangers, for example, an unlit beacon, or floating hazard.

2: Radio Communications (Brisbane Pilotage and Southern Moreton Bay Areas)

BRISBANE HARBOUR keeps a 24 hour radio watch on VHF:

- Channel 16 - Initial call up and primary emergency channel.
- Channel 12 - Working channel for ships working in Moreton Bay and the Brisbane River between Point Cartwright (Mooloolaba) and Hamilton Reach (Bretts Wharf).
- Channel 13 - Working channel for ships operating in smooth waters adjacent to the Brisbane Pilotage Area:
 - 1) The Brisbane river upstream of Bretts Wharf
 - 2) Southern Moreton Bay, the area that lies to the south of a line running from the Boat Passage Bridge, Fisherman Islands to North Point, St Helena Island, then to Reeders Point, Moreton Island.

All ocean trading, commercial, fishing and private ships 35m or more LOA transiting the Brisbane Pilotage Area must report to Brisbane Harbour Control (VTS) on VHF Channel 12 on arrival and departure from the Brisbane Pilotage Area and must maintain a listening watch on that frequency at all times while operating in the Area.

A commercial ship equipped with VHF radio is required to maintain a listening watch on VHF Channel 16 and either Channel 12 or 13 depending on its area of operation.

A commercial ship must maintain a listening watch on VHF Channel 12 prior to entering a shipping channel and must respond to calls on VHF Channel 12. This applies between the Pilot Boarding ground at Point Cartwright (Mooloolaba) to Bretts Wharf in the Brisbane River.

Ships fitted with a VHF Radio and operating upstream of Bretts Wharf must give advisory warning broadcasts on VHF Channel 13 when approaching all corners and bridges to alert other traffic.

3: Ship Reporting

All ocean trading, commercial, fishing and private ships over 35m LOA approaching Moreton Bay via the North West (NW) or North East (NE) channels must communicate the following information to **BRISBANE HARBOUR** on Channel 12:

- An ETA 2 hours prior to entering either channel
 - Ship's name
 - Ship's type (Fishing, Tug, Recreational and so on)
 - Navigational channel and route to be used
 - ETA at the Entrance Beacons
 - Destination be it berth, anchorage, moorings or designated location

Report arrival at:

- NW Fairway Beacon or NE2 Buoy
- Entrance Beacons
- Berth, anchorage, moorings or designated location

THE ABOVE MUST BE REPORTED IN REVERSE BY DEPARTING SHIPS.

4: Recreational Ships

A recreational ship equipped with VHF radio is required to maintain a listening watch on VHF Channel 16 and either Channel 12 or 13 depending on its area of operation.

A recreational ship must maintain a listening watch on VHF Channel 12 prior to entering a shipping channel if the recreational ship intends to navigate "*within and along*" the shipping channel for a distance of 400m or more and must respond to calls on VHF Channel 12. This applies between the Pilot Boarding ground at Point Cartwright (Mooloolaba) to the "Coffee Pots" in the Brisbane Entrance Channel.

When operating *in and along* a shipping channel the recreational ship should navigate on the outer edge of the channel.

For reasons of safety, a recreational ship should only cross a shipping channel at recommended locations and at 90° to the channel (Refer to the July 2007 - MSQ Manly to Mooloolaba Boating Safety Chart for recommended crossings).

A recreational ship fitted with VHF and tuned to VMR operating and information channels must switch over to VHF Channel 12 when approaching a shipping channel.

5 Further Information

Manager Vessel Traffic Management
Port Control
Marine Operations Base
Pinkenba Qld 4008
Telephone: 3305 1704

MARINE OPERATIONS CENTRE PHONE NUMBERS

Bundaberg	(07) 4131 8500
Gladstone	(07) 4973 1200
Airlie Beach	(07) 4946 2200
Cairns	(07) 4052 7400
Southport	(07) 5539 7300
Pinkenba	(07) 3860 3500
Mooloolaba	(07) 5477 8408
Mackay	(07) 4944 3700
Townsville	(07) 4726 3400