

MARINE NOTICE

Marine Notice 15/2007

Pre-Entry Reports to REEFVTS

This Marine Notice applies to the REEFVTS area which essentially includes Torres Strait and the Inner Route of the Great Barrier Reef north of latitude 21° 54' S.

AMSA Marine Orders Part 56 specifies reporting obligations to REEFVTS. Included in these obligations is the requirement for vessels to provide pre-entry reports at least two hours before entering the REEFVTS area.

Pre-entry reports are required for vessels entering the REEFVTS area from seaward and also before departing a port within the area.

An important function of REEFVTS is to provide Ship Traffic Information (STI) to vessels transiting the area. STI gives advance warning to all vessels of when and where they may expect to encounter other vessels. This is important information to assist with onboard decision making.

A number of vessels fail to provide their pre-entry report until well after entering the area, or not at all. This has the effect of diminishing the quality of the STI at the entry/exit points to the area as REEFVTS will not have knowledge of the incoming vessel's intended route.

Masters of vessels which will be passing through the REEFVTS area are reminded that they must provide the pre-entry reports as required by the Marine Orders. Note that the requirement to make a pre-entry report is a penal provision under the Navigation Act and its Regulations; penalties may apply under Australian law for non-compliance.

Reporting requirements for REEFVTS may be found in:

- Admiralty List of Radio Signals Vol 6 (4);
- Australian Annual Notice to Mariners No 22, which may be downloaded from the Australian Hydrographic Office web-site: www.hydro.gov.au; and
- Section 6 of the GBR and Torres Strait VTS User Manual which is available on request from offices of AMSA and Maritime Safety Queensland.

Section 6.1 of the User Manual, which refers to the requirement for Pre-entry Reports, is attached for information.

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Internet address for all current Marine Notices:-
www.amsa.gov.au



Extract from VTS Users Manual

6.1 Pre-Entry Position Report

A Pre-Entry position report must be made in respect of a ship at least two hours prior to:

- a) Entering the REEFVTS area;
- b) Departing from a port within the REEFVTS area.

The following information must be provided in the Pre-Entry position report:

Line	Information Required	Example
A	Ship name, Call sign and IMO number	A/HAPPY SAILOR/ ABCD/1234567
B	Date and Time (UTC)	B/010200UTC
C	Current position (latitude and longitude) or where vessel is departing a port, the port name.	C/1036S/14144E
H	Date, Time (UTC) and Point of Entry to REEFVTS area. Point of entry can be provided as the name of the first Mandatory Reporting Point upon entry to the REEFVTS area, or position (latitude and longitude) if not entering in the vicinity of a Mandatory Reporting Point.	H/010400UTC/BOOBY
K	Date, Time (UTC) and Point of Exit from the REEFVTS area. Point of exit can be provided as the name of final Mandatory Reporting Point, or position (latitude and longitude) of anticipated exit from the REEFVTS area.	K/041300UTC/HIGH PEAK
M	Communication Methods Primary Inmarsat C details (including Inmarsat C Mobile Number (IMN), manufacturer and model).	M/450111333/JRC /JUE-75C

Note: Mariners are requested to ensure that the vessels Inmarsat C terminal is logged into the Pacific Ocean Region (POR).