



Harwich Haven Authority

Harwich Vessel Traffic Services

Introduction

Harwich Vessel Traffic Service (Harwich VTS) is operated from Harwich Operations Centre on a continuous 24-hour basis to provide a safe and efficient regime for vessel traffic, and protection for the environment. Harwich Operations Centre also provides the co-ordination and communications centre for the Haven Ports Pilotage Service, and the pilot boarding and landing activities at the Haven (Inner) Pilot Station and the Sunk (Outer) Pilot Station.

Harwich VTS provides Traffic Organisation and Navigational Assistance Services with the authority of the Harbour Master. Failure, without good cause, to obey an instruction given by Harwich VTS with the purpose of preserving marine safety, may constitute an offence.

Details

CALL: Harwich VTS

MMSI: 002320025

LOCATION: Harwich Operations Centre

TELEPHONE: +44(0)1255 243000

FAX: +44(0)1255 507177

E-MAIL: harwich.vts@hha.co.uk

FREQUENCY: Ch 71, 09, 11, 20

HOURS: H24

TIMES: All times should be given in local time

Services

Harwich VTS is a UK designated port VTS

Traffic Organisation Service - to prevent the development of dangerous maritime traffic situations, and to provide for the safe and efficient movement of vessel traffic within the Authority's area.

Navigational Assistance - to provided on request or when deemed necessary by Harwich VTS to assist on-board navigational decision making, and to monitor its effects. It does not relieve the Master of his responsibility for the safe navigation of the vessel.

Compliance

The following procedures are mandatory for all vessels over 50 GT and those vessels licensed to carry 12 or more passengers.

VTS Area

The seaward limit of the VTS area follows the arc of a circle radius 4 statute miles centred on position 51°55'.96N; 1°18'.84E with an easterly extension defined by a line joining the following positions:

- (1) 51°57'.43N; 1°23'.91E
- (2) 51°59'.03N; 1°37'.14E
- (3) 51°53'.79N; 1°33'.92E
- (4) 51°52'.60N; 1°33'.92E
- (5) 51°52'.60N; 1°30'.79E
- (6) 51°54'.31N; 1°30'.79E
- (7) 51°55'.28N; 1°24'.34E

All positions in WGS 84.

Hazardous Goods

All vessels carrying dangerous or polluting goods as classified in the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG), in Chapter 19 of the International Gas Carriers Code (IGG), in Chapter 17 of the International Bulk Carriers Code (IBC) and MARPOL (Annex I, II and III) should comply with the Merchant Shipping (Traffic Monitoring and Reporting Requirements) Regulations 2004.

See General Directions for Navigation 2007 for details of Dangerous Substances in Harwich VTS.

Vessels Inward Bound

- (i) Vessels requiring a Pilot (see Pilot Section), other vessels (PEC), should send ETA to the VTS area at least 24hrs in advance or on leaving last port if later, stating:
 - (a) Vessel's name
 - (b) Call sign
 - (c) GT
 - (d) Maximum draft
 - (e) Destination
 - (f) ISPS Security Level
 - (g) Number of persons on board
 - (h) Last Port of call
 - (i) Any deficiencies which may effect the vessel's safe navigation
- (ii) Vessels must confirm ETA 3hrs before, or as soon as practical, when within VHF range on VHF Ch 09.
- (iii) All vessels must obtain permission before entering the VTS area.
- (iv) Reporting Points

Vessels are required to report to Harwich VTS on VHF Ch 71 when passing the following points:

Name	Position	Remarks
N. Shipwash Outer Approach	51°51'.10N; 1°35'.97E	N Approach
N. Shipwash Buoy	52°01'.70N; 1°38'.32E	N Approach
Walker Buoy	51°53'.78N; 1°33'.63E	S Approach
Mid Bawdsey Buoy	51°59'.0N; 1°35'.6E	N Approach
Cutler Buoy	51°58'.55N; 1°28'.0E	N Approach (inshore route)
Stone Banks Buoy	51°53'.23N; 1°18'.88E	S Approach (inshore route)
Harwich Approach Buoy	51°56'.87N; 1°30'.6E	

Harwich Channel No. 7 Buoy	51°56'.0N;	1°22'.2E	
Fagbury Buoy	51°58'.0N;	1°16'.78E	Ipswich Approach – then transfer to ONS on Ch 68

Vessels within the Area

- (i) All vessels must maintain a continuous listening watch on VHF Ch 71.
- (ii) All vessels must report on anchoring or berthing.
- (iii) All vessels must obtain permission before getting underway from anchor or leaving a berth.
- (iv) All vessels must report on clearing an anchorage or berth.

Vessels Outward Bound or Shifting

- (i) All vessels must send ETD at least 2hrs (ETD will not be accepted more than 3 hrs) prior to departure time.
- (ii) All vessels must give 30 minutes confirmation of ETD.
- (iii) All vessels must obtain permission to move from Harwich VTS. Permission to move is valid for 15 minutes if the vessel has not cleared then new permission must be obtained.
- (iv) Reporting points

Vessels are required to report to Harwich VTS on VHF Ch 71 when passing the following points:

Name	Position		Remarks
No. 4 Orwell Buoy	51°59'.8N;	1°14'.41E	River Orwell - preliminary
No. 2 Orwell Buoy	51°58'.95N;	1°16'.6E	River Orwell – transfer from ONS
Erwarton Beacon	51°56'.95N;	1°13'.25E	River Stour
Harwich Channel No. 8 Buoy	51°55'.78N;	1°22'.75E	
Rough Buoy	51°55'.73N;	1°30'.7E	South bound
Cross Buoy	51°56'.5N;	1°30'.56E	Stating if N or S bound
Stone Banks Buoy	51°53'.23N;	1°18'.88E	S bound (inshore route)
Cutler Buoy	51°58'.55N;	1°28'.0E	N bound (inshore route)
Walker Buoy	51°53'.78N;	1°33'.63E	S bound
Mid Bawdsey Buoy	51°59'.0N;	1°35'.6E	N bound
N. Shipwash Buoy	52°01'.7N;	1°38'.32E	N bound

Information Broadcasts

Navigational information broadcasts are made by Harwich VTS on VHF Ch 11 at 0415 and 1615. During periods of major works or operations the frequency of broadcasts will be increased with broadcasts at 0415, 1015, 1615, 2215.

Marine Emergency

- (i) In the event of a major incident details will be broadcast on Ch 71 with the message marker **Harwich Marine Incident**.
- (ii) In the event of **incident** all vessels should maintain current communication watch, minimise all VHF radio traffic and be ready for vessel traffic instructions.
- (iii) Any vessel requiring emergency assistance within the Harwich VTS area should contact Harwich VTS on VHF Ch 71.

Radar Surveillance

Radar surveillance is maintained within the Harwich VTS Area for the provision of vessel traffic services. Radar video and radio/telephone audio of Harwich VTS operations is recorded for the purposes of maritime safety, protection of the environment and to maintain the operational standards of Harwich VTS.