



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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Vessel Traffic Services for Lower Mississippi River Final Rule Published

The U.S. Coast Guard announced on 28 October the publication of a Final Rule that establishes a mandatory Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) on the Lower Mississippi River and transfers certain vessel traffic management provisions of the Mississippi River, Louisiana--Regulated Navigation Area to the VTS.

This rule implements current practices and operating procedures appropriate to an Automatic Identification System (AIS)-based VTS and facilitates vessel transits, enhances good order, promotes safe navigation, and improves existing waterway operating measures. The rule also adds minor conforming revisions to the existing vessel traffic management provisions and related regulations.

This rule updates certain operating practices, adopts standard traffic management procedures, and informs the mariner of certain services provided by a Coast Guard VTS.

The Final Rule and related materials may be reviewed at <http://www.regulations.gov>, docket number: USCG-1998-4399

For more information about this rule, call Lieutenant Commander Jim Larson, Office of Shore Forces (CG-7413), U.S. Coast Guard at (202) 372-1554.

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