

## PART 26—VESSEL BRIDGE-TO-BRIDGE RADIOTELEPHONE REGULATIONS

### Sec.

- 26.01 Purpose.
- 26.02 Definitions.
- 26.03 Radiotelephone required.
- 26.04 Use of the designated frequency.
- 26.05 Use of radiotelephone.
- 26.06 Maintenance of radiotelephone; failure of radiotelephone.
- 26.07 Communications.
- 26.08 Exemption procedures.
- 26.09 List of exemptions.

AUTHORITY: 14 U.S.C. 2; 33 U.S.C. 1201-1208; 49 CFR 1.45(b), 1.46; Rule 1, International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea.

SOURCE: CGD 71-114R, 37 FR 12720, June 28, 1972, unless otherwise noted.

### §26.01 Purpose.

(a) The purpose of this part is to implement the provisions of the Vessel Bridge-to-Bridge Radiotelephone Act. This part:

(1) Requires the use of the vessel bridge-to-bridge radiotelephone;

(2) Provides the Coast Guard's interpretation of the meaning of important terms in the Act;

(3) Prescribes the procedures for applying for an exemption from the Act and the regulations issued under the Act and a listing of exemptions.

(b) Nothing in this part relieves any person from the obligation of complying with the rules of the road and the applicable pilot rules.

### §26.02 Definitions.

For the purpose of this part and interpreting the Act:

*Secretary* means the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating;

*Act* means the "Vessel Bridge-to-Bridge Radiotelephone Act", 33 U.S.C. sections 1201-1208;

*Length* is measured from end to end over the deck excluding sheer;

*Power-driven vessel* means any vessel propelled by machinery; and

*Towing vessel* means any commercial vessel engaged in towing another vessel astern, alongside, or by pushing ahead.

*Vessel Traffic Services (VTS)* means a service implemented under Part 161 of this chapter by the United States

Coast Guard designed to improve the safety and efficiency of vessel traffic and to protect the environment. The VTS has the capability to interact with marine traffic and respond to traffic situations developing in the VTS area.

*Vessel Traffic Service Area* or *VTS Area* means the geographical area encompassing a specific VTS area of service as described in Part 161 of this chapter. This area of service may be subdivided into sectors for the purpose of allocating responsibility to individual Vessel Traffic Centers or to identify different operating requirements.

NOTE: Although regulatory jurisdiction is limited to the navigable waters of the United States, certain vessels will be encouraged or may be required, as a condition of port entry, to report beyond this area to facilitate traffic management within the VTS area.

(Rule 1, International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (as rectified); EO 11964 (14 U.S.C. 2); 49 CFR 1.46(b))

[CGD 71-114R, 37 FR 12720, June 28, 1972, as amended by CGD 77-118a, 42 FR 35784, July 11, 1977; CGD 90-020, 59 FR 36322, July 15, 1994]

### §26.03 Radiotelephone required.

(a) Unless an exemption is granted under §26.09 and except as provided in paragraph (a)(4) of this section, this part applies to:

(1) Every power-driven vessel of 20 meters or over in length while navigating;

(2) Every vessel of 100 gross tons and upward carrying one or more passengers for hire while navigating;

(3) Every towing vessel of 26 feet or over in length while navigating; and

(4) Every dredge and floating plant engaged in or near a channel or fairway in operations likely to restrict or affect navigation of other vessels except for an unmanned or intermittently manned floating plant under the control of a dredge.

(b) Every vessel, dredge, or floating plant described in paragraph (a) of this section must have a radiotelephone on board capable of operation from its navigational bridge, or in the case of a dredge, from its main control station, and capable of transmitting and receiving on the frequency or frequencies within the 156-162 Mega-Hertz band

using the classes of emissions designated by the Federal Communications Commission for the exchange of navigational information.

(c) The radiotelephone required by paragraph (b) of this section must be carried on board the described vessels, dredges, and floating plants upon the navigable waters of the United States.

(d) The radiotelephone required by paragraph (b) of this section must be capable of transmitting and receiving on VHF FM channel 22A (157.1 MHz).

(e) While transiting any of the following waters, each vessel described in paragraph (a) of this section also must have on board a radiotelephone capable of transmitting and receiving on VHF FM channel 67 (156.375 MHz):

(1) The lower Mississippi River from the territorial sea boundary, and within either the Southwest Pass safety fairway or the South Pass safety fairway specified in 33 CFR 166.200, to mile 242.4 AHP (Above Head of Passes) near Baton Rouge;

(2) The Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet from the territorial sea boundary, and within the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet Safety Fairway specified in 33 CFR 166.200, to that channel's junction with the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal; and

(3) The full length of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal from its junction with the Mississippi River to that canal's entry to Lake Pontchartrain at the New Seabrook vehicular bridge.

(f) In addition to the radiotelephone required by paragraph (b) of this section, each vessel described in paragraph (a) of this section while transiting any waters within a Vessel Traffic Service Area, must have on board a radiotelephone capable of transmitting and receiving on the VTS designated frequency in Table 26.03(f) (VTS Call Signs, Designated Frequencies, and Monitoring Areas).

NOTE: A single VHF-FM radio capable of scanning or sequential monitoring (often referred to as "dual watch" capability) will not meet the requirements for two radios.

TABLE 26.03(f).—VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICES (VTS) CALL SIGNS, DESIGNATED FREQUENCIES, AND MONITORING AREAS

Vessel traffic services <sup>1</sup> call sign	Designated frequency <sup>2</sup> (channel designation)	Monitoring area
New York <sup>3</sup> New York Traffic <sup>4</sup>	156.550 MHz (Ch. 11) and 156.700 MHz (Ch. 14)	The navigable waters of the Lower New York Harbor bounded on the east by a line drawn from Norton Point to Breezy Point; on the south by a line connecting the entrance buoys at the Ambrose Channel, Swash Channel and Sandy Hook Channel to Sandy Hook Point; and on the southeast including the waters of the Sandy Hook Bay south to a line drawn at latitude 40°25' N.; then west into waters of the Raritan Bay to the Raritan River Rail Road Bridge; and then north including the waters of the Arthur Kill and Newark Bay to the Lehigh Valley Draw Bridge at latitude 40°41.35' N.; and then east including the waters of the Kill Van Kull and Upper New York Bay north to a line drawn east-west from the Holland Tunnel Ventilator Shaft at latitude 40°43.7' N.; longitude 74°01.6' W. in the Hudson River; and continuing east including the waters of the East River to the Throgs Neck Bridge, excluding the Harlem River.
Houston <sup>3</sup>	156.600 MHz (Ch. 12)	Each vessel at anchor within the above areas. The navigable waters north 29° N., west of 94°20' W., south of 29°49' N., and east of 95°20' W.;
Houston Traffic	156.550 MHz (Ch. 11)	The navigable waters north of a line extending due west from the southern most end of Exxon Dock #1 (29°43.37' N., 95°01.27' W.).
Benwick Bay	156.600 MHz (Ch. 12)	The navigable waters south of a line extending due west from the southern most end of Exxon Dock #1 (29°43.37' N., 95°01.27' W.).
Benwick Traffic	156.550 MHz (Ch. 11)	The navigable waters south of 29°45' N., west of 91°10' W., north of 29°37' N., and east of 91°18' W.
St. Marys River Soo Control	156.600 MHz (Ch. 12)	The navigable 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 Potagamissing Bay and Worsley Bay).
San Francisco <sup>3</sup> San Francisco Offshore Vessel Movement Reporting Service	156.600 MHz (Ch. 12)	The waters within a 38 nautical mile radius of Mount Tamalpais (37°55.8' N., 122°34.6' W.) excluding the San Francisco Offshore Precautionary Area.
San Francisco Traffic	156.700 MHz (Ch. 14)	The waters of the San Francisco Offshore Precautionary Area eastward to San Francisco Bay including its tributaries extending to the ports of Stockton, Sacramento and Redwood City.
Puget Sound <sup>5</sup> Seattle Traffic <sup>6</sup>	156.700 MHz (Ch. 14)	The navigable waters of Puget Sound, Hood Canal and adjacent waters south of a line connecting Marrowstone Point and Lagoon Point in Admiralty Inlet and south of a line drawn due east from the southernmost tip of Possession Point on Whidbey Island to the shore-line.

156.250 MHz (Ch. 5A) .....	The navigable waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca east of 124°40' W, excluding the waters in the central portion of the Strait of Juan de Fuca north and east of Race Rocks; the navigable waters of the Strait of Georgia east of 122°52' W.; the San Juan Island Archipelago, Rosario Strait, Bellingham Bay; Admiralty Inlet north of a line connecting Marrowstone Point and Lagoon waters of the Strait of Georgia east of 122°52' W.; the San Juan Island Archipelago, Rosario Strait, Bellingham Bay; Admiralty Inlet north of a line connecting Marrowstone Point and Lagoon Point and all waters east of Windbey Island north of a line drawn due east from the southernmost tip of Possession Point on Windbey Island to the shoreline.
156.725 MHz (Ch. 74) .....	The waters west of 124°40' W., within 50 nautical miles of the coast of Vancouver Island including the waters north of 48° N., and east of 127° W.
156.550 MHz (Ch. 11) .....	The navigable 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.
156.650 MHz (Ch. 13) .....	The navigable waters south of 61°05' N., east of 147°20' W., north of 60° N., and west of 146°30' W.; and, all navigable waters in Port Valdez.
156.650 MHz (Ch. 13) .....	The navigable waters of the Ohio River between McAlpine Locks (Mile 606) and Twelve Mile Island (Mile 593), only when the McAlpine upper pool gauge is at approximately 13.0 feet or above.

Tofino Traffic <sup>7</sup> .....

Vancouver Traffic .....

Prince William Sound<sup>8</sup>  
Valdez Traffic .....

Louisville<sup>8</sup>  
Louisville Traffic .....

**Notes:**

- <sup>1</sup>VTS regulations are denoted in 33 CFR Part 161. All geographic coordinates (latitude and longitude) are expressed in North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83).
- <sup>2</sup>In the event of a communication failure either by the vessel traffic center or the vessel or radio congestion on a designated VTS frequency, communications may be established on an alternate VTS frequency. The bridge-to-bridge navigational frequency, 156.650 MHz (Channel 13), is monitored in each VTS area, and it may be used as an alternate frequency, however, only to the extent that doing so provides a level of safety beyond that provided by other means.
- <sup>3</sup>Designated frequency monitoring is required within U.S. navigable waters. In areas which are outside the U.S. navigable waters, designated frequency monitoring is voluntary. However, prospective VTS Users are encouraged to monitor the designated frequency.
- <sup>4</sup>VMRS participants shall make their initial report (Sail Plan) to New York Traffic on Channel 11 (156.550 MHz). All other reports, including the Final Report, shall be made on Channel 14 (156.700 MHz). VMRS and other VTS Users shall monitor Channel 14 (156.700 MHz) while transiting the VTS area. New York Traffic may direct a vessel to monitor and report on either primary frequency depending on traffic density, weather conditions, or other safety factors. This does not require a vessel to monitor both primary frequencies.
- <sup>5</sup>A Cooperative Vessel Traffic Service was established by the United States and Canada within adjoining waters. The appropriate vessel traffic center administers the rules issued by both nations; however, it will enforce only its own set of rules within its jurisdiction.
- <sup>6</sup>Seattle Traffic may direct a vessel to monitor the other primary VTS frequency, 156.250 MHz or 156.700 MHz (Channel 5A or 14) depending on traffic density, weather conditions, or other safety factors, rather than strictly adhering to the designated frequency required for each monitoring area as defined above. This does not require a vessel to monitor both primary frequencies.
- <sup>7</sup>A portion of Tofino Sector's monitoring area extends beyond the defined CVTS area. Designated frequency monitoring is voluntary in these portions outside of VTS jurisdiction, however, prospective VTS Users are encouraged to monitor the designated frequency.
- <sup>8</sup>The bridge-to-bridge navigational frequency, 156.650 MHz (Channel 13), is used in these VTSs because the level of radiotelephone transmissions does not warrant a designated VTS frequency. The listening watch required by 26.05 of this chapter is not limited to the monitoring area.

[CGD 91-046, 57 FR 14485, Apr. 21, 1992; 57 FR 21740, May 22, 1992, as amended by CGD 90-020, 59 FR 36322, July 15, 1994; CGD 95-033, 60 FR 28328, May 31, 1995; CGD 92-052, 61 FR 45325, Aug. 29, 1996]

## § 26.04

### **§ 26.04 Use of the designated frequency.**

(a) No person may use the frequency designated by the Federal Communications Commission under section 8 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. 1207(a), to transmit any information other than information necessary for the safe navigation of vessels or necessary tests.

(b) Each person who is required to maintain a listening watch under section 5 of the Act shall, when necessary, transmit and confirm, on the designated frequency, the intentions of his vessel and any other information necessary for the safe navigation of vessels.

(c) Nothing in these regulations may be construed as prohibiting the use of the designated frequency to communicate with shore stations to obtain or furnish information necessary for the safe navigation of vessels.

(d) On the navigable waters of the United States, channel 13 (156.65 MHz) is the designated frequency required to be monitored in accordance with § 26.05(a) except that in the area prescribed in § 26.03(e), channel 67 (156.375 MHz) is the designated frequency.

(e) On those navigable waters of the United States within a VTS area, the designated VTS frequency is an additional designated frequency required to be monitored in accordance with § 26.05.

(85 Stat. 164; 33 U.S.C. 1201-1208; 49 CFR 1.46(n)(2))

[CGD 71-114R, 37 FR 12720, June 28, 1982, as amended by CGD 83-036, 48 FR 30107, June 30, 1983; CGD 91-046, 57 FR 14486, Apr. 21, 1992; 57 FR 21741, May 22, 1992; CGD 90-020, 59 FR 36323, July 15, 1994; CGD 95-033, 60 FR 28329, May 31, 1995]

### **§ 26.05 Use of radiotelephone.**

Section 5 of the Act states that the radiotelephone required by this Act is for the exclusive use of the master or person in charge of the vessel, or the person designated by the master or person in charge to pilot or direct the movement of the vessel, who shall maintain a listening watch on the designated frequency. Nothing herein shall be interpreted as precluding the use of portable radiotelephone equip-

## 33 CFR Ch. I (7-1-98 Edition)

ment to satisfy the requirements of this act.

[CGD 93-072, 59 FR 39963, Aug. 5, 1994]

### **§ 26.06 Maintenance of radiotelephone; failure of radiotelephone.**

Section 6 of the Act states:

(a) Whenever radiotelephone capability is required by this Act, a vessel's radiotelephone equipment shall be maintained in effective operating condition. If the radiotelephone equipment carried aboard a vessel ceases to operate, the master shall exercise due diligence to restore it or cause it to be restored to effective operating condition at the earliest practicable time. The failure of a vessel's radiotelephone equipment shall not, in itself, constitute a violation of this Act, nor shall it obligate the master of any vessel to moor or anchor his vessel; however, the loss of radiotelephone capability shall be given consideration in the navigation of the vessel.

### **§ 26.07 Communications.**

No person may use the services of, and no person may serve as, a person required to maintain a listening watch under section 5 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. 1204, unless the person can communicate in the English language.

[CGD 90-020, 59 FR 36323, July 15, 1994, as amended by CGD 95-033, 60 FR 28329, May 31, 1995]

### **§ 26.08 Exemption procedures.**

(a) The Commandant has redelegated to the Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety and Environmental Protection, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, with the reservation that this authority shall not be further redelegated, the authority to grant exemptions from provisions of the Vessel Bridge-to-Bridge Radiotelephone Act and this part.

(b) Any person may petition for an exemption from any provision of the Act or this part;

(c) Each petition must be submitted in writing to U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety and Environmental Protection, 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001, and must state:

(1) The provisions of the Act or this part from which an exemption is requested; and

(2) The reasons why marine navigation will not be adversely affected if

the exemption is granted and if the exemption relates to a local communication system how that system would fully comply with the intent of the concept of the Act but would not conform in detail if the exemption is granted.

[CGD 71-114R, 37 FR 12720, June 28, 1972, as amended by CGD 73-256, 39 FR 9176, Mar. 8, 1974; CGD 88-052, 53 FR 25119, July 1, 1988; CGD 95-057, 60 FR 34150, June 30, 1995; CGD 96-026, 61 FR 33663, June 28, 1996; CGD 97-023, 62 FR 33362, June 19, 1997]

**§26.09 List of exemptions.**

(a) All vessels navigating on those waters governed by the navigation rules for Great Lakes and their connecting and tributary waters (33 U.S.C. 241 et seq.) are exempt from the requirements of the Vessel Bridge-to-Bridge Radiotelephone Act and this part until May 6, 1975.

(b) Each vessel navigating on the Great Lakes as defined in the Inland Navigational Rules Act of 1980 (33 U.S.C. 2001 et seq.) and to which the Vessel Bridge-to-Bridge Radiotelephone Act (33 U.S.C. 1201-1208) applies is exempt from the requirements in 33 U.S.C. 1203, 1204, and 1205 and the regulations under §§26.03, 26.04, 26.05, 26.06, and 26.07. Each of these vessels and each person to whom 33 U.S.C. 1208(a) applies must comply with Articles VII, X, XI, XII, XIII, XV, and XVI and Technical Regulations 1-9 of "The Agreement Between the United States of America and Canada for Promotion

of Safety on the Great Lakes by Means of Radio, 1973."

[CGD 72-223R, 37 FR 28633, Dec. 28, 1972, as amended by CGD 74-291, 39 FR 44980, Dec. 30, 1974; CGD 83-003, 48 FR 7442, Feb. 18, 1983; CGD 91-046, 57 FR 14486, Apr. 21, 1992]

**PART 27—ADJUSTMENT OF CIVIL MONETARY PENALTIES FOR INFLATION**

Sec.

27.1 Applicability.

27.2 Effective date.

27.3 Penalty Adjustment Table.

AUTHORITY: Pub. L. 101-410, 104 Stat. 890 as amended by Pub. L. 104-134; 49 CFR 1.45, 1.46.

SOURCE: CGD 96-052, 62 FR 16700, Apr. 8, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

**§27.1 Applicability.**

This part applies to each statutory provision under the laws administered by the Coast Guard concerning the maximum civil monetary penalty which may be assessed in either civil judicial or administrative proceedings.

**§27.2 Effective date.**

The increased penalty amounts set forth in this rule apply to all violations under the applicable statutes and regulations which occur after May 7, 1997.

**§27.3 Penalty Adjustment Table.**

The adjusted statutory penalty provisions and their maximum applicable amounts are set out in Table 1. The last column of the table provides the newly effective maximum penalty amounts.

TABLE 1.—CIVIL MONETARY PENALTY INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS \*

U.S. Code citation	Civil monetary penalty description	New maximum penalty amount
14 U.S.C. 88(c)	Saving Life and Property	5,500
14 U.S.C. 645(h)	Confidentiality of Medical Quality Assurance Records (first offense)	3,000
14 U.S.C. 645(h)	Confidentiality of Medical Quality Assurance Records (subsequent offense).	22,000
33 U.S.C. 471	Anchorage Ground/Harbor Regulations General	110
33 U.S.C. 474	Anchorage Ground/Harbor Regulations St. Mary's River	220
33 U.S.C. 495	Bridges/Failure to Comply with Regulations	1,100
33 U.S.C. 499	Bridges/Drawbridges	1,100
33 U.S.C. 502	Bridges/Failure to Alter Bridge Obstructing Navigation	1,100
33 U.S.C. 533	Bridges/Maintenance & Operation	1,100
33 U.S.C. 1208(a)	Bridge to Bridge Communication	550
33 U.S.C. 1208(b)	Bridge to Bridge Communication	550
33 U.S.C. 1232	PWSA Regulations	27,500
33 U.S.C. 1236(b)	Vessel Navigation: Regattas or Marine Parades	5,500
33 U.S.C. 1236(c)	Vessel Navigation: Regattas or Marine Parades	5,500