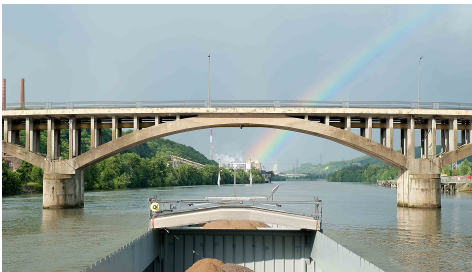


SAFETY FLASH 23-81: Passing bridges safely

When passing a bridge, there are several things that need to be taken into account. Some of these matters can be calculated in advance, but others depend on the current situation.

GOOD PRACTICE

- ✓ Know in advance what kind of bridges will be passed. Eg. arch bridges or lifting bridges.
- ✓ Check whether there is a deviating water level and/or current. Keep this in mind during the trip.
- ✓ Check the weather forecast and take the current weather into account during the journey in case of poor visibility due to fog or rain, for example.
- ✓ When using an altimeter, regularly test whether it is functioning properly.
- ✓ If there is other traffic during the bridge passage, take suction into account.
- ✓ Adjust the speed to the bridge to be passed.
- ✓ In the event that the wheelhouse or the radar/antennas have to lower for the bridge passage, start this in time. In case there is a malfunction, there is sufficient time to stop.
- ✓ If necessary, contact the bridge in time for the passage.



BAD PRACTICE

- ✗ Not being familiar with the bridges to be passed.
- ✗ Assume that the water level and/or current are always the same.
- ✗ Not taking the weather into account during the bridge passages.
- ✗ Never testing the altimeter.
- ✗ Not taking other traffic into account during the bridge passage.
- ✗ Not adjusting the speed to the bridge to be passed.
- ✗ Lower the wheelhouse and/or radar/antennas at the last minute or not at all.
- ✗ Not contacting in time at bridges where this is required.



ACTION QUESTIONS

- What kind of bridges will I encounter on the sailing route?
- Do I know the current water level and current?
- Have I tested the altimeter?
- Is there enough space to encounter an oncoming vehicle during the bridge passage?
- At what speed can I safely cross a bridge?

