

SAFETY FLASH 26-118: PASSING BRIDGES SAFELY

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

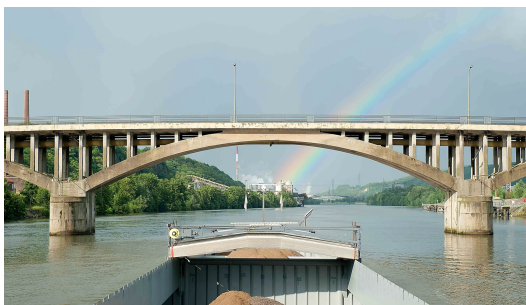
GOOD PRACTICE

- 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

- x Not being familiar with the bridges on the sailing route.
- x Assuming that the water level and/or current are always the same.
- x Not adjusting the sailing behaviour to the weather during the bridge passage.
- x Being unfamiliar with the exact height of the ship.
- x Not taking other traffic into account during the bridge passage.
- x Not adjusting the speed to the bridge to be passed.
- x Lowering the wheelhouse and/or radar/antennas at the last minute or not at all.
- x Not contacting the bridge in time when this is required.



ACTIEVRAGEN

- 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 ship during the bridge passage?
- At what speed can I safely pass a bridge?

