

Update of Safety Alert 26-44

Amsterdam-Rhinecanal: measures between 22.00 and 06.00 o'clock

Due to limited staffing at Rijkswaterstaat, **no Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) is currently available** for the **Maarsse**n and **Wijk bij Duurstede** sectors between **22:00 and 06:00** daily. The Amsterdam-Rhine Canal remains open during these hours, subject to applicable measures.

Sector Maarssen

For **all vessels**, the following applies to the narrow sections in **Maarsse**n and at the **Demka Bend**:

- **maximumspeed 15 km/h;**
- **ban on overtaking and meeting in head-on situations**

In addition, standard navigation rules remain fully applicable. Adjust your speed and navigation to the prevailing conditions and pay extra attention to other vessels. **Extra caution and personal responsibility** are essential, particularly in the absence of VTS.

Wijk bij Duurstede and Ravenswaaij

In the Wijk bij Duurstede sector, VTS is likewise unavailable between **22:00 and 06:00**. No comparable additional measures apply here; existing traffic rules and local restrictions naturally remain in force.

At the **barrier and the Princess Marijke Lock at Ravenswaaij**, strictly follow the displayed traffic signs and lights. If the route via the lock chamber is indicated, it must be followed.

Never sail through a red light!

Call to the whole shipping industry

Please also share this information with colleagues and crew members. Safe navigation under these exceptional circumstances is a shared responsibility.

It is of great importance to our sector that night-time navigation remains possible. We must prevent incidents or non-compliance with the measures from prompting a review and potentially leading to the imposition of further, more stringent restrictions.

Therefore, please observe the measures, inform your colleagues, and navigate with extra care. Only by working together can we keep night navigation safe—and viable.

POSSIBLE DANGERS

- No complete traffic overview for the Amsterdam-Rhine Canal
- Less information about what is happening in the surrounding area
- No guidance in the event of incidents

MEASURES (FOR ALL SHIPS)

- Reduce speed on the section of the 'Maarsse sector' work area between km 28.6 and km 35.7 to a maximum of 15 km/h.
- Prohibition on overtaking and meeting at the narrow part in sector Maarsse and at the Demka bend;
- Prohibition on meeting in these narrow and unique sections; pay particular attention to ensuring that passing can be done safely, taking into account the prevailing conditions and other traffic. A prohibition means that such meeting manoeuvres must be avoided!
- This means that all vessels must ensure well in advance that no encounters in head-on situations occur. In practical terms, this means that speeds will sometimes need to be drastically reduced. Take responsibility in this regard and make clear agreements with one another;
- In general: You will not be able to receive information from a VTS-operator.
- Make use of radar and AIS, and—well in advance—utilize the data contained in the ECDIS chart regarding approaching vessels (small, large, oversized), pushed convoys, and coupled units;
- Please pay particular attention to this yourself: Ensure extra care is taken when entering AIS-data correctly (especially the dimensions and similar details for large vessels, pushed convoys, and coupled vessel units).
- In case of doubt: establish contact with each other (via VHF-radio). Make clear arrangements. You will not be able to receive guidance or information from a VTS-operator.
- In the event of an incident posing a danger to other waterway users, immediately notify the surrounding area of the incident at km 33–35—specifically via the designated VHF channel 61 for the Maarsse sector (km 28.6–km 35.7).
- Incorporate the discontinuation of VTS guidance and the implemented measures into voyage planning;
- Spread the word! Share this information with your fellow barge-masters;
- Take personal responsibility for a smooth and safe voyage.

References/Sources:

Rijkswaterstaat

[SF Defensive Sailing](#)