



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

NAVTEX Service Information

Notice to Owners and Operators, of Yachts, Fishing Vessels and other vessels fitted with NAVTEX equipment

This Notice supersedes Merchant Shipping Notice No. 1664

Summary

This note provides guidance on the use of NAVTEX.

Key Points

- NAVTEX is an important part of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS).
- NAVTEX Broadcast Schedules (Navarea 1) are given in section 3.
- United Kingdom Coast Station broadcast schedule and category of messages are given in section 5.

1. NAVTEX SERVICE

This Notice is intended to provide information to small vessel owners and fishing vessel owners who are unfamiliar with the NAVTEX system and who may wish to use it. It is a compulsory fit on all cargo vessels over 300 grt and on all sea-going passenger vessels.

NAVTEX is an international automated service developed to provide a low cost, simple means of receiving marine safety information on board ships at sea and in coastal waters. Coast stations in Northern Europe and many other parts of the world broadcast weather and navigational information by teleprinter on 518 kHz. Fishing vessels and small craft operating in a NAVTEX coverage area are strongly recommended to carry equipment suitable to receive the service.

NAVTEX is an important part of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS). As well as disseminating routine navigation warnings and weather information, it also is an important means of alerting all vessels in the event of a major distress alert. It has a designed transmission range of about 400 nautical miles. Navigation warnings sent

by NAVTEX normally consist of information which is either of a temporary nature (such as a navigation light extinguished or buoy out of position) or new information of a permanent nature which has not yet been promulgated in the Notices to Mariners.

2. EQUIPMENT

The dedicated equipment typically comprises a small unit containing a receiver fixed-tuned to the broadcast frequency, a printer and a dedicated aerial. There are also a number of paperless units available based on a small microcomputer capable of receiving and storing NAVTEX information. Although such equipment is not acceptable for compulsory fitted vessels because it does not provide a permanent record of information received, it may be considered suitable for many small craft, where space is at a premium.

The equipment should be left switched on continuously and may be programmed to receive only selected stations and/or categories of messages. A microprocessor control ensures that a routine message already received will not be reprinted on subsequent transmissions.

3 NAVTEX TRANSMISSION TIMES (UTC)

Navarea 1

Broadcast Schedules:

Schedules for all stations participating in the Northern European system are shown below:

NAVTEX SERVICE: NAVAREA 1									
NAV/MET Area	Country	NAVTEX Coast Station	Position	Range (NM)	B1 Character	Transmission times(UTC)	Language	Status of implementation [Date of operation]	
I	Belgium	Oostende Radio	51 11N 02 48E	55	T	0248,0648,1048,1448,1848,2248	English	Operational	
	Iceland	Reykjavik Radio	64 05N 21 51W	550	R	0318,0718,1118,1518,1918,2318	English	Operational	
	Ireland	TBD	N.I.	N.I.	W	0340,0740,1140,1540,1940,2340	English	Planned[N.I.]	
	Netherlands	Netherlands Coast Guard (Ijmuiden)	52 06N 04 15E	110	P	0348,0748,1148,1548,1948,2348	English	Operational	
	Norway	Bodo Radio	67 16N 14 23E	450	B	0333,0733,1133,1533,1933,2333	English	Operational	
		Rogaland Radio	58 48N 05 34E	450	L	0148,0548,0948,1348,1748,2148	English	Operational	
		Vardoe Radio	70 22N 31 06E	450	V	0300,0700,1100,1500,1900,2300	English	Operational	
	Sweden	Stockholm Radio (Bjuroklubben)	64 28N 21 36E	300	H	0000, 0400, 0800 (weather forecast), 1200 (ice report) 1600, 2000 (weather forecast)	English	Operational	
		Stockholm Radio (Gislovhammer)	55 29N 14 19E	300	J	0330, 0730 (weather broadcast) 1130 (ice report), 1530, 1930 (weather forecast), 2330	English	Operational	
	United Kingdom	Stockholm Radio (Stavnsas)	59 16N 18 43E	300	U	0030, 0430, 0830 (weather forecast), 1230 (ice report), 1630, 2030 (weather forecast)	English	Operational	
		Cullercoats	55 02N 01 26W	270	G	0048,0448,0848,1248,1648,2048	English	Operational	
		Portpatrick	54 51N 05 07W	270	O	0130,0530,0930,1330,1730,2130	English	Operational	
	Russian Federation	Niiton	50 07N 05 40W	270	S	0018,0418,0818,1218,1618,2018	English	Operational	
		Murmansk	68 58N 33 05E	140	C	0120,0520,0920,1320,1720,2120	English	Operational	
Arkhangelsk		64 33N 40 32E	280	F	0200,0600,1000,1400,1800,2200	English	Operational		

4 UNITED KINGDOM NAVTEX STATIONS COVERAGE AREA

Area covered by:

Cullercoats - 62°N to 52°30'N, UK coastline / 5°W to North Sea median line.

Portpatrick - West of Ireland from 62°N to 55°N, east of Ireland, from 62°N to a line between Tuskar Rock and St David's Head and from 15°W to the UK coastline or 5°W whichever is the most easterly.

Niton - West of Ireland from 55°N, east of Ireland from a line between Tuskar Rock and St David's Head to 48°27'N and from 15°W to the Straits of Dover.

Ostend - 52°30'N to the Straits of Dover, UK coastline to North Sea meridian.



5 UNITED KINGDOM COAST STATION BROADCAST SCHEDULE AND CATEGORY OF MESSAGES

Broadcasts from the United Kingdom will include:-

Message Category A:

Navigational warnings affecting the coverage area originated by the Hydrographic Office. These will not include local warnings. Broadcasts or warnings in the Navarea 1 series will be made at:

0448 and 1648 UT CULLERCOATS

0530 and 1730 UT PORTPATRICK

0418 and 1618 UT NITON

Broadcast of warnings in the WZ series will be made at any of the scheduled transmission times according to the Hydrographer's instructions.

Message Category B:

Gale warnings issued by the Meteorological Office will be broadcast on receipt and at the next scheduled time.

Message Category C:

Ice reports. This category is unlikely to apply to UK broadcasts.

Message Category D:

Initial distress and urgency alerts(IDUA). The initial broadcast will be made at the request of HM Coastguard. It is not normal practice for subsequent and cancellation broadcasts to be sent.

Message Category E:

Weather forecasts will be issued by the Meteorological Office and broadcast by:

Cullercoats Radio at: - 0848 and 2048 UT

Portpatrick Radio at: - 0930 and 2130 UT

Niton Radio at: - 0818 and 2018 UT.

Message Category F:

Pilot services messages.

Message Category G:

DECCA messages.

Message Category H:

LORAN messages.

Message Category I:

OMEGA messages.

Message Category J:

SATNAV messages.

Message Category K:

Other electronic navaid messages.

Message Category L:

Drilling rig movements.

Message Category V:

Amplification of navigational warnings - under Category A. and Weekly Rig lists.

Message Category W:

SUBFACTS/GUNFACTS - brief message with details of VHF Channels and broadcast timings.

Message Category Z:

No messages on hand at scheduled transmission time.

6 ADMIRALTY LIST OF RADIO SIGNALS

Fuller details of world wide NAVTEX coverage can be obtained from Volume 3 of this publication.

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