

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT,
LONDON SE1 7SR
Telephone: 071-735 7611
Telegrams: INTERMAR-LONDON SE1
Telex: 23588
Telefax: 071-587 3210



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NEW GERMAN TRAFFIC REGULATIONS FOR NAVIGABLE WATERWAYS

1 At the request of the thirty-seventh session (23 to 27 September 1991) of the Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation (NAV 37/25, paragraph 4.18), the attention of Member Governments is invited to the following information provided by Germany (NAV 37/INF.5).

2 Section 24(a) of the German national "Traffic Regulations for Navigable Waterways" was repealed on 19 April 1991. Under the new local special rules of 19 April 1991, certain deep-draught vessels in the area of the extension of the territorial sea in the German Bight are now classified as "vessels restricted in their ability to manoeuvre", if they meet the requirements notified by the competent shipping police authority. These are vessels which, on account of their draught, are obliged to sail tide-bound in the waterways ahead. These vessels have to report to the VTS Centre Wilhelmshaven via "Deutsche Bucht Revier Radio" on VHF channel 80. Shipping in the area of the extension of the territorial sea in the German Bight is informed in good time by the VTS Centre Wilhelmshaven of the movements of such deep-draught vessels which are restricted in their ability to manoeuvre. These safety broadcasts are announced at 15-minute intervals on VHF channel 16 and transmitted on VHF channel 80 immediately following the situation report. In the "Precautionary area" these vessels are, as a rule, accompanied by a vessel of the water police with a blue flashing light. All official nautical publications have been updated through Notices to Mariners.

3 Member Governments are invited to ensure that mariners of ships flying their flag operating in the region of the German Bight are aware of the new local special rules "Traffic Regulations for Navigable Waterways".

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