

Regulations for Organization of Entry and Departure of Vessels to/from Jordanian Territorial Waters and Organization of Maritime Communications and Vessel Traffic Services (VTS).

Issued by the Minister of Transport upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors of Jordan Maritime Commission by virtue of the provisions of Article (6) of the Regulations of the Entry of Vessels into Jordanian Territorial Waters No. 109 of 2009

Article (1)

These regulations shall be named (Regulations for Organization of Entry and Departure of Vessels to/from Jordanian Territorial Waters and Organization of Maritime Communications and Vessel Traffic Services (VTS)) and shall come into force on the date of publication in the official Gazette.

Article (2)

The following words and terms wherever mentioned in these Regulations shall have the meanings assigned thereto hereunder unless the context expressly provides otherwise:

The Minister:	Minister of Transport / Chairman of the Board of Directors
The Director:	The Director General of Jordan Maritime Commission
The Commission:	Jordan Maritime Commission
The Organization:	The International Maritime Organization IMO
Territorial Waters:	Jordanian Territorial waters are demarcated by the position zero at the Red Sea Northeast coast of Aqaba Gulf, where the marine borderline extends vertically on the longitude line, which crosses the zero point and extends toward the west for 2.84 Kilo Meters, where it meets the line dividing Aqaba Gulf into two halves, and from that point this line tracks the marine borderline, which divides the Gulf and extends toward the south at the last point, to be vertical on the borderline of the Saudi Arabia Kingdom, at the east coast, facing Durrah Border Center.
The Vessel:	Any seaworthy, floating, and self-propelled facility of any kind, designation or load. All accessories necessary for the exploitation of the vessel is considered a part of it, including Barges.
The Competent Authority:	The authority delegated by the Government and which is responsible for the safety and efficiency of the vessels traffic in the territorial waters and their regulation and control, in this case it is Jordan Maritime Commission, taking into account the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) Law.
Vessels Traffic Services (VTS):	The service provided by the competent authority to regulate the vessels traffic in the territorial waters and control them, raise the level of safety and efficiency of the vessels traffic, protect the marine environment in matters related to the prevention of pollution from vessels, provide the navigational information for vessels in a timely manner and secure the navigation of vessels within the area. Such a service must enable the interaction with the vessels traffic and respond to all situations and requirements that may arise in the area accordingly.
VTS Port Service:	The service related to the entry of vessels to and from berths, towage

and guidance operations, vessels movement in the marina, to the marina, from one berth to another or in the waiting areas and entry into the berths.

VTS Area:	The Jordanian territorial waters which is determined and declared by the competent authorities such as the VTS area. This area may be divided into small areas if necessary.
VTS Provider:	The entity which is entrusted to provide VTS port service
VTS Operator:	Adequately qualified personnel to perform one or more tasks that contribute to the performance of the VTS.
VTS Center:	The place where the VTS is managed
VTS Sailing Plan:	The mechanism agreed between the VTS operator and the vessel's master regarding the movement of the vessel within the VTS area.

Article (3)

These regulations aim to secure the safety of maritime navigation in the VTS area, the protection of life at sea, the protection of the marine environment, adjacent coastal areas, workplaces and off-shore installations from the adverse effects of maritime navigation, while ensuring rapid response and effective interaction with conditions and situations arising within the VTS area and providing navigational information for vessels masters.

Article (4)

The navigation of vessels, entry and exit into and out of the territorial waters and any other related operations shall be regulated by the Commission in a manner that does not contradict with the VTS port services and with the relevant international requirements and reporting procedures for vessels and navigational aids.

Article (5)

The requirements for the performance of the VTS in Jordanian territorial waters and berths shall be defined as follows:

1. Commitment to the area designated for the VTS in the territorial waters of Jordan as defined in Article (2) above.
2. Commitment to the type and level of service provided to vessels entering the territorial waters.
3. In order to equip the system with suitable devices and beach equipment to perform the required service, the Maritime Commission shall ensure the provision of such equipment and devices and their compliance with the applicable international requirements, including radar, AIS, VHF, and navigational aids.
4. Providing the service with qualified and trained staff in the appropriate manner who can perform the required tasks in accordance with the international requirements for management and operation whether for port or coastal services.
5. The VTS shall be operated taking into account applicable local laws and regulations and relevant IMO resolutions including the General Assembly resolution A.857 (20), the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and its amendments, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982, the IALA Guidelines, International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972 (COLREG) and any relevant international conventions, protocols or codes.

6. The VTS provider shall be committed to maintaining the communication channels designated for communication with the vessels in full readiness for continuous communication with vessels, especially in cases of emergency or technical faults. The IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases SMCP shall be used for communications.
7. For simplifying and clarifying procedures, information is periodically exchanged, and the following shall be provided at the VTS center:
 - a. Internal daily work procedures and exchange of information among VTS employees.
 - b. Work procedures with accompanying services.
 - c. Procedures and plans for dealing with emergencies such as search and rescue
 - d. Procedures and plans for pollution control
 - e. The above procedures as well as work procedures whether routine or emergency procedures must be documented in a manual that can be easily consulted. This manual is part of the organized exercises, provided that this guide is continuously monitored.
8. The VTS center shall be provided with an appropriate database that can save, update, provide and retrieve information.
9. All information will be saved for future use and for submission to official authorities upon request.
10. Seafarers shall be provided with the necessary information in accordance with the relevant international conventions, in particular SOLAS 1974 and its amendments, and the requirements and procedures to be followed in a timely manner in the VTS area.

Article (6)

Without bearing any real or financial responsibility, the VTS provider shall organize and manage all vessel traffic, including:

- Ship movements from the sea to berths
- Ship movements from berths to the sea
- Ship movements in the waiting areas of the berths (Drifting)
- Ship movements in or to the marina
- Ship movements from one berth to another.

Article (7)

The VTS provider shall provide the Commission and other concerned authorities with all instructions, circulars and decisions issued by it concerning the tasks and duties it performs.

Article (8)

Any accident resulting from the vessel's non-compliance with the instructions and regulations issued by the VTS center shall be investigated by the Marine Accident Investigation Division of the Commission in accordance with the applicable instructions in this regard. The entity responsible for the incident shall take the necessary legal measures in accordance with the applicable legislation and notify the flag State. The Commission may seek the assistance of any other relevant party to complete the investigation.

Article (9)

Vessels covered by VTS:

- a. Vessels with longer than 24 m when they are in the VTS area.

- b. Warships used to ensure the safety of navigation, provided that coordination is made with the ship's agent to report the date of its arrival and any other necessary information.
- c. Vessels in berths.

Article (10)

Decisions relating to the actual navigation and maneuvering of the vessel in the VTS area shall be the responsibility of the vessel master in coordination with the guide. The sailing plan or any amendments requested or agreed upon in this plan shall not invalidate the decisions of the master in this regard.

Article (11)

Communications with VTS center and other vessels are conducted on channels designated by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in accordance with SOLAS convention Chapter IV, especially when communications relate to maneuvering procedure to enter and exit platforms and berths. Prior to entering the VTS area, vessels shall provide the required information to the VTS center, including the expected arrival date, vessel malfunctions, dangerous goods transported and any other important information affecting maritime safety and security. When passing through the VTS area, the vessels shall follow the applicable regulations and instructions, constantly listen to the designated communication channel and report any changes to the Sailing Plan.

Article (12)

- a. Vessel masters shall notify the VTS center of any marine hazards or contamination cases.
- b. If the vessel's communication equipment is in complete malfunction, the vessel's master shall notify the VTS center and the vessels in the vicinity by means of any available means of communication to indicate that the vessel is unable to communicate on the designated communication channel. The incident and its causes shall be recorded in the vessel's logbook.

Article (13)

- a. The vessels flying the Jordanian flag shall comply with the procedures and instructions of the VTS in other countries. If a Jordanian vessel is reported to be in violation of these procedures and instructions, the necessary measures shall be taken, and the complaining State shall be notified.
- b. The vessels in the territorial waters shall comply with the procedures and instructions of the VTS. In the event of any violation of these instructions, the Commission shall inform the flag State of the vessel and take the appropriate legal measures in accordance with applicable legislation and relevant international conventions.

Article (14)

For facilitating the movement of naval vessels carrying marine licenses operating in territorial waters, the following shall be complied with:

- a. Night sailing is permitted from both the Royal Yacht Club or the Tala Bay Club in coordination with the Royal Navy Force, with a commitment not to pass the restricted areas designated by the competent authorities.
- b. Daytime sailing is permitted south of the Tala Bay Club provided that a distance not less than 200 m is maintained away from the military pavement and the regional water lines.

- c. Diving is permitted either for commercial purposes or for tourism and pleasure through the Royal Diving Club and licensed dive centers.

Article (15)

All previous instructions issued in this respect shall be cancelled.