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VESSEL TRAFFIC INFORMATION SERVICE  
IN THE SINGAPORE STRAIT

- 1 At the request of the Government of Singapore, the following information is brought to the attention of Member Governments.
- 2 The Port of Singapore Authority will be implementing a vessel traffic information service (VTIS) to improve safety of navigation in the Singapore Strait and facilitate the safe flow of shipping in and out of the port of Singapore.
- 3 A paper which provides information on the VTIS is attached. The Port of Singapore Authority will commence VTIS operations on 1 October 1990.
- 4 Member Governments are invited to bring this information to the attention of their ships using the Singapore Strait.

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ANNEXSINGAPORE INFORMATION PAPERVESSEL TRAFFIC INFORMATION SERVICE IN THE SINGAPORE STRAIT

1 The routing system adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in its resolution A.375(10) for the Straits of Malacca and Singapore was brought into effect on the 1st of May 1981. This timely implementation of orderly routing was necessary because of the increasing volume of shipping traffic in the Straits.

2 Since the implementation of the routing system, the volume of shipping traffic transitting the Singapore Strait and calling at Singapore has continued to increase. This increase has been significant over the last few years and effective monitoring of the Traffic Separation Schemes is necessary to ensure the safety of vessels using the Singapore Strait. This will also facilitate the safe flow of shipping in and out of the Port of Singapore. A practical way of doing this is to use a vessel traffic radar cum computer-based Vessel Traffic System (VTS) much like the ones established for the English Channel and other parts of the world.

3 The Port of Singapore Authority (PSA) has chosen a VTS that consists of Vessel Traffic Radars, Computers, a VHF communications network and VHF direction finders. The PSA's VTS will be called the Singapore Vessel Traffic Information Service (VTIS). The VTIS will operate in accordance with the IMO resolution A.578(14).

4 The main objectives of the VTIS are to:

- .1 improve safety of navigation in the Singapore Strait;
- .2 facilitate the safe flow of shipping in and out of the Port of Singapore; and
- .3 provide navigational information to vessels using the Singapore Strait.

5 The PSA intends to commence VTIS operations on the 1st of October 1990. Shipmasters and the rest of the shipping community will be advised on the operation of the VTIS via Port circulars and other nautical publications. The VTIS will operate as a service to the shipping community. It is hoped that with the operation of the system, it will be possible to inform participating vessels of dangers affecting their navigation. The VTIS centre will encompass the responsibilities of the PSA's Port Operations centre, namely the acceptance of arrival and departure notifications. The VTIS will also attend to shipmasters' enquiries and provide them with information about pilot and berth availability.

6 In addition to the above, the VTIS will broadcast navigational warnings, relay marine traffic information and assist during emergencies. Although participation in the VTIS is voluntary for all transitting vessels using the Singapore Strait, masters of such vessels are encouraged to participate in the VTIS. The PSA hopes that through maximum participation the system will contribute towards higher safety for all vessels using the Singapore Strait.

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