

New maritime traffic rules

As a result of amendments to the Act on Port Regulations, new vessel traffic rules have been introduced in Kanmon Kaikyo since July 1, 2010. We will give you here an outline of the rules only. We recommend you to check the details on the website of the Japan Coast Guard.

For your information, the Maritime Traffic Safety Act, which prescribes traffic rules in Tokyo Bay, Ise Bay and the Seto Inland Sea, was also amended at the same time and new maritime traffic rules have been introduced in these waters, as well, since July 1.

Japan Coast Guard website (Japanese) : <http://www.kaiho.mlit.go.jp/syoukai/soshiki/toudai/navigation-safety/news-houan4.htm>

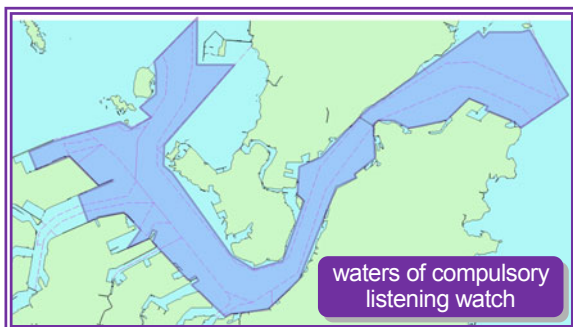
Japan Coast Guard website (English) : <http://www.kaiho.mlit.go.jp/syoukai/soshiki/toudai/navigation-safety/en/news.htm>

Kanmon MARTIS website (English) : <http://www6.kaiho.mlit.go.jp/kanmon/html/english.htm>

It has become compulsory for vessels to keep a listening watch for information provided by the Japan Coast Guard.

It has become compulsory for specified vessels (with gross tonnage exceeding 300 tons) to keep a listening watch for **information provided by the Japan Coast Guard (harbourmaster) (*)** when sailing in the waters illustrated below (waters of compulsory listening watch).

- ◆ The harbourmaster may issue an advice for the purpose of preventing dangers.
- ◆ Information and advice are provided in Japanese or English, mainly by using the international VHF radio telephone.
- ◆ Such information and advice do not have such a nature as to give specific instructions for shiphandling.



《* Information provided by Japan Coast Guard》

- ◆ Information on traffic rules;
- ◆ Information on traffic obstacles;
- ◆ Information on dangerous sea areas;
- ◆ Information on vessels restricted in their ability to maneuver;
- ◆ Information on other specified vessels in a close-quarters situation ;and
- ◆ Other information as necessary for safety.

Vessels may be instructed to wait outside a passage in restricted visibility or other cases.

In order to ensure the safety of vessel traffic in visibility restricted by fog or in other cases, the harbourmaster may instruct vessels to wait outside a passage.

- ◆ The criterion of restricted visibility is 500 m or less.
- ◆ He may instruct such a vessel as may not be able to develop a speed in excess of 3 knots over the expected velocity of the tidal stream, to wait outside a passage.

The entry of AIS data about the destination has become compulsory.

It has become obligatory for vessels equipped with an AIS transceiver to enter their destination in the AIS destination field, in accordance with the method (alphabetical code) recommended by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Vessels may be ordered to leave the port, or may be advised for evacuations, in the event of abnormal weather or sea conditions.

The harbourmaster may give vessels inside the port, orders to leave the port or advice for evacuation in the event of a large scale typhoon or other abnormal weather or sea conditions, or a marine accident.

For inquiries, contact:

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