

Shipping guidance decree

Official reference	Decreet van 16 juni 2006 betreffende de begeleiding van de scheepvaart op de maritieme toegangswegen en de organisatie van het Maritiem Reddings- en Coördinatiecentrum	
Relevant dates	Document	16/06/2006
	Publication	26/10/2006
	Entry into force	5/11/2006
Policy level	Flemish	
Type of instrument	Decree	
Geographical reach	Flemish region	
(Legal) coverage in the BNS	(Waters where the Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) operate, cf. art. 2 of the law)	
Competent authorities in Belgium	Flemish authorities; policy domain Mobility and Public Works (MOW)	

// abstract:

This decree determines the tasks, competences and organisation regarding shipping guidance. It discusses the organisation and management of the Vessel Traffic Services (VTS), which coordinate shipping from and to the ports, waterways, berths and anchorages within the VTS area. The VTS include data management and reporting through a central management system. The decree also stipulates the regulation on shipping guidance within the VTS area, specifying that the VTS are responsible for an information service, navigational assistance service, a traffic organisation service and a pilotage service. Moreover, the VTS can, in consultation with the port company, take measures to control the traffic to, from and in the ports and waterways. The fairway marking and the traffic signal in the VTS area are an integral part of the VTS. The decree determines the compensation that needs to be paid for the use of the VTS services. Moreover, the tasks and the statutes of the Maritime Rescue and Coordination Centre (MRCC) are fixed, concerning intervention in case of shipping incidents in the search and rescue area that is indicated by the Flemish government. Finally, the decree describes the sanctions for infringements and indicates at the institutions that are responsible for the detection and the investigations of these infringements.