It is understood that the British Government through its information service, to be found at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) is now introducing users to navigation safety information, particularly VTS advice, and where it may be found.

Keying in to [www.gov.uk/navigation-safety-for-uk-seafarers](http://www.gov.uk/navigation-safety-for-uk-seafarers) delivers various links at which information may be recovered.

The site introduces vessel traffic management, electronic nautical publications and safety information for owners, operators of ships, yachts and fishing vessels.

**The site’s contents provides an introduction to:**

1. Vessel traffic management
2. Navigational warnings
3. Navigation safety leaflets
4. Digital nautical publications on ship's bridge
5. SOLAS Chapter V

**Vessel traffic services (VTS) is an important tool in contributing to:**

- safety of life at sea,
- safety of navigation
- protection of the marine environment

**VTS is made up of one or more of three service types:**

- information
- traffic organisation
- navigational assistance

**VTS - publications and guidance**

Readers are advised to refer to the following guidance for more information about VTS and local port services:

**IMO guidance about VTS**

IALA publications and guidance for VTS (see [www.iala-aism.org](http://www.iala-aism.org))

MCA Navigation: vessel traffic services (VTS) – training and certification of VTS personnel (MGN 434)

MCA Navigation: vessel traffic services (VTS) and local port services (LPS) in the UK (MGN 401) and amendment to MGN 401
MCA Vessel traffic services (VTS): designation of VTS stations in the UK (MSN 1796) and amendment to MSN 1796
Port marine safety code: guide
Dover Strait Channel Navigation Information Service (CNIS)

Sections of the site also provide an introduction to navigational warnings where the (UK) Maritime and Coastguard Agency is responsible for broadcasting the warnings issued by the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) to vessels at sea. Radio broadcasts are made about known and potential risks.

**Navigation safety leaflets are introduced.**
MCA produces information leaflets for seafarers in ships, yachts and fishing vessels. Find safety leaflets about navigation, communication and safety at sea.

**SOLAS Chapter V is also introduced**
The Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention Chapter V Regulation 19.2.1.4 states that all ships whatever their size must have “nautical charts and nautical publications to plan and display the ship’s route for the intended voyage and to plot and monitor positions throughout the voyage” and that “an electronic chart display and information system (ECDIS) is also accepted as meeting the chart carriage requirements.”

SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 2.2 defines a nautical chart or nautical publication as “A special-purpose map or book, or a specially compiled database from which such a map or book is derived, that is issued officially by or on the authority of a government, authorised hydrographic office or other relevant government institution and is designed to meet the requirements of marine navigation.”