

## Fisheries Information Notice No 14 of 2011 VMS rules



The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority has issued Fisheries Information Notice entitled "VMS Rules".

### LEGISLATION

References: EC 1224/2009 Control Regulation  
EC 404/2011 Detailed Rules for the Control, Regulation

### Introduction

A Community Vessels of over 15m in length are required to have a fully functioning VMS onboard. This obligation will extend to Community Vessels between 12m -15m, however a Member State may exempt vessels in this category if they operate exclusively within the 'Territorial Seas' (within 12 nautical miles of the base lines) or never spend more than 24 hours at sea.

Vessels from States which are not Member States shall be obliged to have a VMS system if they are authorised to operate in Community waters.

### Rules for VMS

A vessel which is obliged to operate a VMS shall not be permitted to leave port without a fully functioning VMS, however the Flag State may permit the vessel to depart port for the repair of the VMS.

Switching off the VMS – a VMS system may only be switched off if the Flag State FMC has been notified and that the next report shows that the vessel has not changed position since the last received report.

### Information transmitted by the VMS

At regular interval the VMS will transmit the vessel identification; date time & position accurate to 500m; the instant speed of the vessel. This information is normally transmitted ever two hours but may be more frequent in restricted areas or as required by the FMC.

### Responsibility of the Master of a fishing vessel

The master is responsible for ensuring that the VMS is operational at all times, onboard an Irish FV this is normally indicated by a 'Green' indicator light. Any interference with; data; antennas or power supplies; removal of the system from the vessel or in any other way to damage; render inoperative the VMS is prohibited.

### Failure of a VMS

The master of a vessel who becomes aware of a failure of a VMS, or who is informed by the FMC that the VMS is not operative, shall immediately communicate the geographical co ordinates of the vessel to the Flag FMC every 4 hours.

The Flag FMC while monitoring the VMS position shall inform the master or the operator of the vessel where transmissions are not received for 12 hours.

Where failure occurs three times within the same calendar year the Flag State shall ensure that the VMS is thoroughly checked.

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