



FREE DIGITAL HANDBOOK

Practical Maritime English & SMCP Communication Handbook

For Deck Cadets, Deck Officers,
Maritime Students & Seafarers



VHF Communication



Bridge Phrases



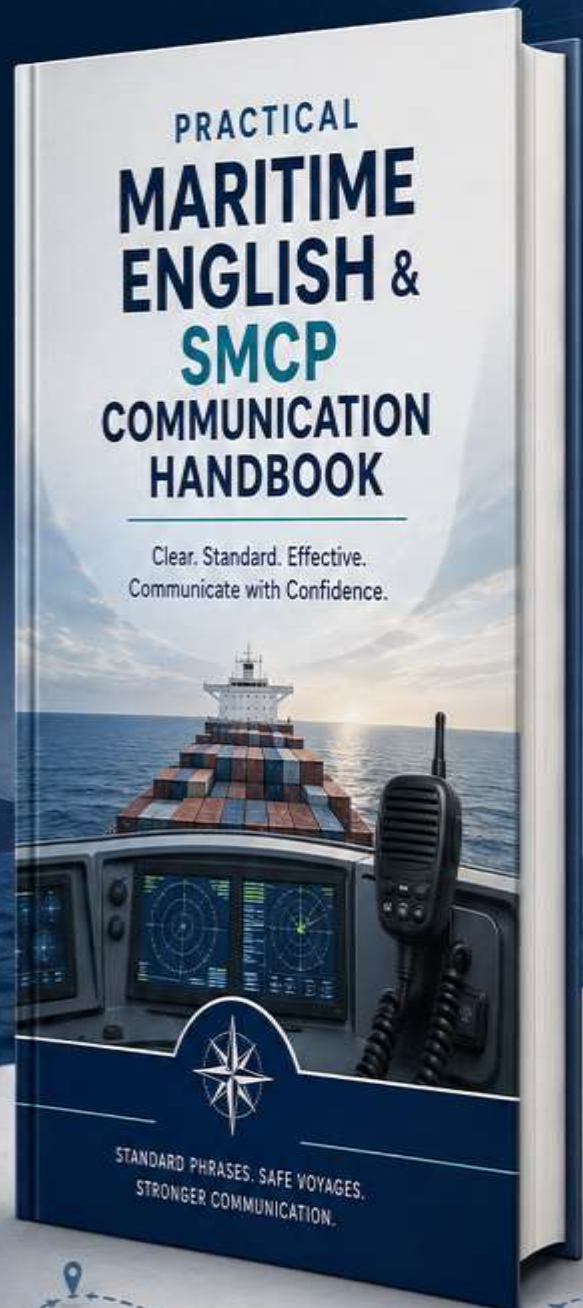
Port & VTS Calling



SMCP-Style Communication



Maritime Abbreviations



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Practical Maritime English & SMCP Expanded Starter Handbook

For Deck Officers, Cadets and Maritime Students

Includes practical phrase banks, interview language, bridge communication, detailed VHF channel guidance, port/VTs calling procedures, acknowledgement and read-back phrases, SMCP-style practice, COLREGs language, emergency reporting, and a complete maritime terminology reference.

Important educational note

This handbook is an independent training resource. It is not an official IMO, STCW, SOLAS, MARPOL, COLREGs or company document. Always follow official publications, flag-state requirements, company SMS and onboard procedures. The SMCP-style examples in this handbook are original learning examples and are not a substitute for the official IMO SMCP publication.

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Best way to sell/use this product

This handbook can be sold as a digital PDF. A free preview can show the cover, contents, sample phrases and two glossary pages, while the full version contains all phrase banks, abbreviations, glossary and worksheets.

1. How to Use This Handbook

This handbook is designed for practical use. It is not a grammar book. It is a professional communication tool for deck cadets, deck officers and maritime students who need ready-to-use maritime English in real shipboard, port, interview and training situations.

- Study one section at a time and read the phrases aloud.
- Change vessel name, rank, cargo, course, speed and position details to match your situation.
- Use the phrase banks for interview practice, bridge role-play and VHF practice.
- Use the abbreviation dictionary and glossary as a quick reference.
- Use the worksheets to create your own professional introduction, VHF messages, watch handover and incident reports.

Learning method

1. Read the phrase.
2. Understand the professional situation.
3. Speak it aloud three times.
4. Replace the sample details with your own details.
5. Use it in a role-play or written report.

Professional standard
 Good maritime English must be clear, short, calm and unambiguous. Avoid long sentences during operations. Use numbers, positions, bearings, distances, time and instructions clearly.

2. Professional Maritime Profile and Introduction

A professional seafarer must be able to introduce rank, experience, certificates, vessel types, safety mindset and availability in clear English. This is useful for LinkedIn, interviews, email, onboard introduction and training courses.

Situation	Phrase / expression	Meaning / note
Introducing rank	I am currently serving as a Deck Officer / Chief Officer / Master.	Use for interview and professional networking.
Sea service	I have seafaring experience on bulk carriers, tankers and general cargo vessels.	Change vessel types according to your actual experience.
Certificates	I hold valid STCW certificates including ECDIS, GMDSS and Advanced Fire Fighting.	Use only certificates you actually have.
Research profile	My research focuses on ship weather routing, route optimization and navigation safety.	Useful for academic or technical conversations.
Availability	I am available for suitable maritime training, consulting or research collaboration.	Use in LinkedIn/email.
Professional strength	My strength is combining practical ship command experience with maritime research.	Strong positioning phrase.

Ready professional introductions

Profile type	Sample introduction
Deck cadet	My name is Ali. I am a deck cadet studying nautical science. I am interested in navigation, bridge watchkeeping and maritime safety.
Junior deck officer	I am a junior deck officer with experience in bridge watchkeeping, passage planning support, safety drills and deck operations.
Experienced officer	I am an experienced deck officer with practical knowledge of navigation, ECDIS, radar watchkeeping, cargo watch and safety procedures.
Master mariner/researcher	I am a Master Mariner and maritime researcher with experience in ship command, navigation safety, maritime communication and maritime training.

3. Bridge Team Communication

This section gives practical language for bridge team communication. The phrases are examples for training and should be adapted to real circumstances and company procedures.

Situation	Phrase / expression	Meaning / note
Calling the Master	Captain, please come to the bridge.	Use when the situation requires Master presence.
Traffic report	Vessel on starboard bow, bearing zero-four-five degrees, range three miles.	Report bearing/range clearly.
CPA/TCPA	CPA is zero decimal eight miles, TCPA twelve minutes.	For collision-risk monitoring.
Course alteration	Recommend altering course to starboard to	Use as OOW suggestion.

Situation	Phrase / expression	Meaning / note
	increase CPA.	
Speed reduction	Recommend reducing speed due to restricted visibility.	Use for safe navigation.
Lookout instruction	Keep sharp lookout on the starboard side and report any traffic.	Order to lookout.
Position report	Our present position is latitude ... longitude ...	For handover/reporting.
Navigation status	Vessel is on planned track and maintaining course ...	Handover phrase.
Bridge equipment	ECDIS, radar, AIS and GPS are operating normally.	Equipment status report.
Concern	I am concerned about the developing close-quarters situation.	Use early and professionally.

Practice drill

- Describe a target on radar using bearing, range, CPA and TCPA.
- Call the Master using a professional reason.
- Give one recommendation to increase safety margin.

4. Watch Handover

This section gives practical language for watch handover. The phrases are examples for training and should be adapted to real circumstances and company procedures.

Situation	Phrase / expression	Meaning / note
Relief	I am ready to take over the watch.	Incoming OOW.
Handover start	I will brief you on our position, course, traffic, weather and standing orders.	Outgoing OOW.
Master orders	The Master has left the following standing orders.	Important handover item.
Hazards	There are fishing vessels expected ahead within the next hour.	Warn about navigational hazards.
Weather	Wind is force five from the northeast; visibility is moderate.	Weather summary.
Engine status	Main engine is on bridge control and speed is twelve knots.	Operational status.
Navigation plan	Next waypoint is in forty minutes; alteration will be to course ...	Route awareness.
Checklist	The bridge checklist has been completed.	Formal close.

Practice drill

- Make a two-minute watch handover using position, course, traffic and weather.
- Include one standing order and one expected hazard.

5. VHF and SMCP-style Communication

This section gives practical language for vhf and smcp-style communication. The phrases are examples for training and should be adapted to real circumstances and company procedures.

Situation	Phrase / expression	Meaning / note
Call format	Port Control, Port Control, this is MV Ocean Star.	Repeat called station and identify vessel.
Request	Request permission to enter the fairway.	Clear request.
Instruction	You are instructed to proceed to anchorage Alpha.	Instruction style.
Question	What is your present course and speed?	Clear question format.
Information	Information: pilot boarding time is one-five-zero-zero local time.	Information marker style.
Warning	Warning: shallow water reported ahead of your position.	Hazard warning.
Advice	Advice: keep clear of the traffic separation scheme.	Advisory phrase.
Repeat	Please repeat your last message.	Use when message was unclear.
Correction	Correction: my ETA is one-six-zero-zero local time.	Use to correct message.
Stand by	Stand by on VHF channel one-two.	Hold communication.

Practice drill

- Create one request message, one warning message and one information message.
- Practice saying numbers and positions clearly.

5A. Detailed VHF Channels, Calling Procedures and Acknowledgement Phrases

This added section is designed as a practical working reference for deck officers, cadets and maritime students. It focuses on VHF channel selection, calling Port Control, VTS, pilot stations, coast stations, other vessels and tugs, and the standard language used for acknowledgement, acceptance, read-back, refusal and clarification.

Important safety note: VHF channel allocations and port working channels may differ by country, port and local authority. Always follow the latest local port guide, Admiralty List of Radio Signals, notices to mariners, company procedures, VTS instructions and national regulations. The phrases below are training examples and must be adapted to the real situation.

5A.1 Core Rules for Professional VHF Communication

- Identify the station you are calling first, then identify your own vessel.
- Keep Channel 16 clear. Use it for distress, safety and initial calling, then move to the instructed working channel when appropriate.
- Use Channel 70 only for DSC alerts and DSC calling. Do not use Channel 70 for voice communication.
- Use short, clear messages. Avoid slang, jokes, long explanations and unnecessary transmissions.
- Use standard message markers when helpful: QUESTION, ANSWER, REQUEST, INFORMATION, WARNING, ADVICE, INSTRUCTION and INTENTION.
- Say numbers, positions, courses, bearings, ranges and times slowly and clearly.
- Use "say again" when you did not understand. Avoid using "repeat" for routine clarification.
- Use "over" when you expect a reply and "out" when the communication is finished. Do not say "over and out" together.
- Read back critical instructions such as course, speed, berth, pilot boarding time, anchorage position, traffic instruction and tug order.
- If in doubt, ask for confirmation before acting.

5A.2 Common VHF Channels - Quick Practical Guide

The table below is a practical training guide. Exact channel use is controlled by the relevant national authority and local port/VTS. Some channels are duplex, some are simplex, and some have regional restrictions.

Channel	Common / typical use	Practical deck officer note
Ch 16 156.800 MHz	International distress, safety and calling.	Use for distress/safety traffic and initial calling. Move to a working channel as soon as possible when instructed.
Ch 70 156.525 MHz	Digital Selective Calling (DSC).	DSC only. Do not use for voice. Used for distress alerts, urgency/safety alerts and DSC calls.
Ch 13 156.650 MHz	Bridge-to-bridge navigational safety in many areas.	Often used for passing arrangements, collision avoidance and ship movement safety. Local rules vary.
Ch 06 156.300 MHz	Intership safety communications.	Useful for ship-to-ship safety messages when assigned or appropriate.
Ch 09 156.450 MHz	Alternate calling / working channel in some regions.	May be used for vessel calling in some areas. Check local rules.
Ch 10 / 11 / 12 / 14	Port operations, VTS or harbor control in many ports.	Commonly assigned by Port Control or VTS. Always follow local port instructions.
Ch 67	Safety, SAR or small-craft safety in some regions.	Regional use differs. Do not assume without checking local rules.
Ch 72 / 77	Ship-to-ship working in many areas.	Often suitable for non-distress intership working traffic when allowed.
Ch 68 / 69 / 71	Non-commercial, port or local working use depending on region.	Use only when permitted by local channel plan.
Ch 17 / 18 / 19 / 20	Port operations / commercial operations in various channel plans.	May be duplex or simplex depending on plan. Confirm before use.
AIS channels 87B / 88B	AIS data channels, not voice channels.	Do not use as normal voice working channels.

Practical rule: call on the correct calling/distress channel or the locally published port/VTS channel, then shift to the assigned working channel. Never rely on memory alone when entering a new port.

5A.3 How to Choose the Correct VHF Channel

Situation	First channel / station to consider	Example action
Distress	DSC Ch 70 and/or voice Ch 16	Send distress alert/call according to GMDSS procedure.
Urgency or safety broadcast	Ch 16 or local safety channel as instructed	Use PAN PAN or SECURITE procedure when appropriate.
Calling another vessel	Ch 16 or locally assigned calling channel	Call briefly, then move to working channel.
Risk of collision / passing arrangement	Ch 13 in many areas, or Ch 16/local VTS channel	Identify the vessel by name, position or bearing/range and state your intention.
Entering port / approaching pilot station	Published Port Control / VTS channel	Call Port Control/VTS with vessel details and request instructions.
Pilot boarding	Published pilot station / port channel	Confirm pilot boarding time, position, side and ladder arrangement.

Tug operation	Tug / port working channel assigned by pilot/VTS	Confirm tug name, position, making fast location and order.
Anchorage	Port Control/VTS channel	Request or confirm anchorage position and reporting requirements.
Routine ship-to-ship working	Assigned ship-to-ship working channel	Use a permitted working channel and keep messages short.

5A.4 Standard Calling Formula

Use this structure for most routine calls:

1. Name of station called - repeated if necessary.
2. This is + your vessel name - repeated if necessary.
3. Call sign and/or MMSI if needed.
4. Position, course, speed or relevant situation.
5. Reason for calling: request, information, warning, instruction or intention.
6. End with "over" if you expect a reply.

Template: "[Station called], [Station called], this is [vessel name], [call sign/MMSI if required]. My position is [position]. I am [inbound/outbound/anchored/underway]. Request [permission/information/instruction]. Over."

5A.5 Calling Port Control / VTS

Purpose	Phrase template
Initial call to Port Control	"Port Control, Port Control, this is MV _____, call sign _____, inbound from _____, ETA pilot station _____ UTC, requesting port entry instructions, over."
Reporting position	"Port Control, this is MV _____. My present position is _____, course _____ degrees, speed _____ knots, over."
Request permission to enter	"REQUEST: permission to proceed to pilot boarding ground / traffic separation scheme / anchorage, over."
Request traffic information	"REQUEST: traffic information for inbound passage to _____, over."
Confirm instruction	"Received. We will proceed to _____ and maintain listening watch on Channel _____, over."
Read back berth instruction	"I will read back: proceed to Berth _____, pass breakwater at _____ UTC, maintain speed _____ knots, report at _____. Is my read-back correct?"
Report arrival at pilot station	"Port Control, MV _____ is at pilot boarding position, engines ready, pilot ladder prepared on _____ side, over."
Request anchorage	"REQUEST: anchorage instruction due to _____. Draft forward _____ metres, aft _____ metres, over."
Departure report	"Port Control, MV _____ is ready for departure from Berth _____. Request permission to let go lines / commence outbound passage, over."

5A.6 Calling Another Vessel

Situation	Phrase template
Calling by name	"MV _____, MV _____, this is MV _____ on Channel 16. Do you read me? Over."
Calling by position when name unknown	"Vessel on my starboard bow, bearing zero-four-five degrees, range three decimal five miles, this is MV _____. Over."
Request working channel	"Please change to Channel _____ for working traffic. Over."
Confirm channel change	"Changing to Channel _____. Standing by on Channel _____. Out."
Passing arrangement proposal	"INTENTION: I will alter course to starboard and pass astern of you. Please confirm. Over."
Close-quarters warning	"WARNING: Risk of collision exists. Your bearing remains steady and range is decreasing. What are your intentions? Over."
Ask for intention	"QUESTION: What are your intentions? Are you altering course to starboard? Over."
Confirm agreement	"Agreed. You will pass ahead of me / I will pass astern of you. I will maintain course and speed. Over."
Keep clear request	"REQUEST: keep clear of my vessel. I am constrained by draft / restricted in ability to manoeuvre. Over."

5A.7 Calling Pilot Station, Pilot Boat and Tug

Station	Phrase template
Pilot Station	"Pilot Station, this is MV _____. ETA pilot boarding position _____ UTC. Request pilot boarding time and boarding side, over."
Pilot Station - ladder confirmation	"Pilot ladder will be rigged on _____ side, _____ metres above water, with manropes / accommodation ladder as required, over."
Pilot Boat	"Pilot Boat _____, this is MV _____. We have you in sight on our _____ side. Speed _____ knots. Pilot ladder ready, over."
Tug - make fast	"Tug _____, this is MV _____. Make fast forward / aft / on the starboard shoulder / port quarter. Heaving line ready, over."
Tug - order	"Tug _____, pull easy / pull half / pull full / stop pulling / push easy / push full, over."
Tug - let go	"Tug _____, let go forward / aft. Thank you for assistance. Out."
Mooring station	"Forward station, bridge. Stand by heaving line / send first line ashore / slack away / heave in / make fast, over."

5A.8 Calling Coast Station, MRCC or Other Shore Stations

Purpose	Phrase template
Routine call	"[Coast Station name], [Coast Station name], this is MV _____, call sign _____, over."
Medical advice request	"REQUEST: medical advice. We have one crew member with _____, Position _____, Patient age _____, condition _____, over."
Assistance request	"REQUEST: assistance due to _____. We are in position _____. Persons on board _____. Over."
Pollution report	"INFORMATION: oil sheen / pollution observed in position _____ at _____ UTC. Extent approximately _____. Over."
SAR coordination	"We are able / unable to assist. Our ETA to search area is _____ UTC. We can proceed at speed _____ knots, over."
Communication difficulty	"Your signal is weak / unreadable. Please say again slowly. Over."

5A.9 Acknowledgement, Acceptance, Confirmation and Refusal Phrases

These expressions are very important because they show whether you only received a message, understood it, accepted it, or will comply with it. Do not use unclear words when safety is involved.

Function	Useful phrases	Meaning / caution
Acknowledgement	Received. / Message received. / I acknowledge receipt of your message.	You have received the message. It does not always mean you agree or will comply.
Understanding	Understood. / I understand your instruction. / Your message is understood.	You understand the content. If not, ask for repetition or clarification.
Compliance	I will comply. / We will comply with your instruction. / Wilco.	Use when you will act according to the instruction. In formal maritime language, "I will comply" is clearer than casual radio slang.
Acceptance	Accepted. / Your request is accepted. / Permission granted. / You may proceed.	Use when you allow or accept a request.
Agreement	Agreed. / Passing arrangement agreed. / Your proposal is accepted.	Use when both stations agree on an action or arrangement.
Confirmation	Confirmed. / I confirm _____. / That is correct.	Use to remove doubt. Repeat the key information.
Read-back correct	Read-back correct. / Correct. Proceed as read back.	The repeated instruction is correct.
Read-back incorrect	Negative. Read-back incorrect. I say again: _____.	The repeated instruction is wrong. Correct it immediately.
Refusal / denial	Negative. / Permission denied. / Do not proceed. / Unable to approve.	Use clear negative language. Give reason if appropriate.
Unable to comply	Unable to comply due to _____. / I cannot comply with your instruction because _____.	Use when safety, traffic, vessel condition or rules prevent compliance.
Stand by / wait	Stand by. / Wait for instructions. / Do not proceed until further notice.	Use when the other station must wait.
Clarification	Say again. / Say again your last message. / Please repeat your position only.	Use when a message was not understood. Prefer "say again" over "repeat" in routine VHF.
Correction	Correction. / I correct my last message. / Cancel my last message.	Use when you made an error. Then transmit the corrected message.
Closing	Out.	Use when communication is finished and no reply is expected.
Roger	Roger. / Roger, standing by. / Roger, I received your last transmission.	Received only. It is not the same as yes, permission granted, or I will comply.
Copy	Copy. / I copy your message. / Do you copy?	Commonly heard as received/understood, but not ideal alone for safety-critical orders.
Affirmative	Affirmative. / Affirmative, that is correct.	Positive answer to a yes/no question. Do not use it only as receipt.

5A.9B Roger, Copy and Affirmative in Maritime VHF Communication

These words are commonly heard on VHF, but they do not all mean the same thing. In professional maritime communication, the safest practice is to use clear SMCP-style wording and to read back safety-critical instructions.

Word / phrase	Meaning in VHF use	Best professional use / caution
Roger	I have received your last transmission.	Roger does not mean yes, permission granted, or I will comply. For safety-critical instructions, use read-back or say: Received. I will comply.
Copy / I copy	I heard/received the message; sometimes used to mean I understand the information.	Useful in informal operational radio, but avoid using only Copy for navigational orders. Use Received or a full read-back when action is required.
Affirmative	Yes / that is correct / the answer is positive.	Use as an answer to a yes/no question. Do not use it only to acknowledge receipt. In SMCP-style wording, Yes or That is correct is often clearer.
Negative	No / not correct / permission denied / unable.	Use for a negative answer, refusal, or correction. Add the reason if safety or operations require it.
Wilco	I have received, understood, and will comply.	Clearer alternative: I will comply. Do not say Wilco if you cannot carry out the instruction.
Received	Your message has been received.	Safe general acknowledgement. Add action or read-back if the message contains an instruction.
Understood	The message is understood.	Use when meaning is clear. If you are unsure, say Say again or Please confirm.
Correct / That is correct	The read-back or statement is correct.	Use after checking a read-back or confirming information.
Read-back correct	The other station repeated the instruction correctly.	Best phrase after pilotage, VTS, course/speed/berth/anchorage instructions.
Read-back incorrect	The repeated message is wrong.	Immediately correct the wrong part: Negative. Read-back incorrect. I say again...

Mini phrase bank: how to use the words correctly

Situation	Weak / unclear wording	Better VHF wording
Instruction received	Roger.	Received. I will read back: proceed to Anchorage Bravo and maintain speed five knots.
Yes/no question	Copy.	Affirmative. Pilot ladder is rigged on starboard side, two metres above water.
Message received only	Affirmative.	Roger / Received. Standing by for further instructions.
Will comply	Roger that.	Received. We will comply with your instruction.
Cannot comply	Copy, but no.	Negative. Unable to comply due to restricted manoeuvrability.
Correction needed	No, wrong.	Negative. Read-back incorrect. I say again: Channel one-two.
Need repetition	What?	Say again your last message slowly, please.

Training note: in exams, training environments and safety-critical communication, prefer the clearer SMCP-style phrases: Received, Yes, No, Correct, Read-back correct, Read-back incorrect, I will comply, Unable to comply, Say again, and Please confirm.

5A.10 Read-back and Closed-loop Communication

Closed-loop communication means: instruction - read-back - confirmation. It is essential for navigation safety, pilotage, VTS instructions, tug orders and emergency response.

Step	Example
1. Instruction	"MV _____, proceed to Anchorage Alpha, maintain speed six knots, report passing Buoy Number Two."
2. Read-back	"I will read back: proceed to Anchorage Alpha, maintain speed six knots, report passing Buoy Number Two."
3. Confirmation	"Read-back correct."
4. Action	"Received. We will comply and report passing Buoy Number Two. Out."

- Read back course, speed, berth, anchorage, pilot boarding time, traffic instruction, tug order and emergency instruction.
- If the other station says "read-back incorrect", stop the action and receive the corrected instruction.
- Do not say only "OK" for safety-critical instructions. Use a clear read-back.

5A.11 Practical Phrase Bank by Communication Function

Function	Phrases
Request	REQUEST: permission to enter port. / REQUEST: traffic information. / REQUEST: pilot boarding time.
Information	INFORMATION: my present course is _____ degrees. / We are proceeding to _____.
Warning	WARNING: risk of collision exists. / WARNING: shallow water ahead. / WARNING: fishing gear reported.
Advice	ADVICE: you should alter course to starboard. / ADVICE: keep clear of the fairway.
Instruction	INSTRUCTION: stop engine. / INSTRUCTION: proceed to anchorage. / INSTRUCTION: do not overtake.
Intention	INTENTION: I will alter course to starboard. / INTENTION: I will reduce speed.
Question	QUESTION: what are your intentions? / QUESTION: do you require assistance?
Answer	ANSWER: I will maintain course and speed. / ANSWER: I require no assistance.
Received / Roger	Roger. / Received. / Message received. / I copy your message.
Positive answer	Affirmative. / Yes. / That is correct.
Negative answer	Negative. / No. / That is not correct. / Unable to comply.
Will comply	Received. I will comply. / We will comply with your instruction.

5A.12 Useful VHF Abbreviations and Short Forms

Abbreviation	Full form	Practical use
VHF	Very High Frequency	Marine radio communication band used for short-range ship/shore communication.
DSC	Digital Selective Calling	Digital alerting/calling system used in GMDSS.
MMSI	Maritime Mobile Service Identity	Unique digital identity used for DSC/AIS.
GMDSS	Global Maritime Distress and Safety System	International system for maritime distress and safety communications.
VTS	Vessel Traffic Service	Shore-based traffic service for safe and efficient vessel movement.
MRCC	Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre	Coordinates maritime search and rescue.
RCC	Rescue Coordination Centre	Coordinates rescue operations.
SAR	Search and Rescue	Emergency search and rescue operation.
OOW	Officer of the Watch	Officer responsible for navigational watch.
CPA	Closest Point of Approach	Minimum predicted distance between vessels.
TCPA	Time to Closest Point of Approach	Time remaining until CPA.
COG	Course Over Ground	Actual track over ground.
SOG	Speed Over Ground	Actual speed over ground.
ETA	Estimated Time of Arrival	Expected arrival time.
ETD	Estimated Time of Departure	Expected departure time.
UTC	Coordinated Universal Time	Standard time reference used internationally.
LT	Local Time	Local port or ship time.
POB	Persons On Board / Pilot On Board	Meaning depends on context. Clarify in messages.
UKC	Under-keel Clearance	Clearance between keel and seabed.
TSS	Traffic Separation Scheme	Routing system separating traffic streams.

5A.13 Number, Position and Channel Pronunciation

- Say VHF channels digit by digit when clarity is needed: Channel one-six, Channel one-two, Channel seven-zero.
- Say decimal clearly: "three decimal five miles".
- Say course and bearing with three digits: "zero-eight-five degrees", "two-seven-zero degrees".
- Say position slowly in degrees and minutes: "Latitude zero-three degrees two-five decimal four minutes North; Longitude one-zero-one degrees four-five decimal two minutes East".
- Use UTC when communicating internationally unless the station requires local time.
- If a word is difficult, spell it using the phonetic alphabet.

Example: "Port Control, this is MV Ocean Star. My position is Latitude zero-three degrees one-five decimal two minutes North, Longitude one-zero-one degrees four-zero decimal six minutes East. Course zero-eight-five degrees, speed eight knots. Over."

5A.14 Do / Do Not - VHF Professional Discipline

Do	Do not
----	--------

Prepare your message before pressing the transmit button.	Do not start speaking without knowing your message.
Use clear station identity and vessel name.	Do not say only "hello" or "captain".
Use standard phrases and read back critical information.	Do not answer safety-critical instructions with only "OK".
Keep distress and calling channels clear.	Do not use Channel 16 for long routine conversations.
Ask for clarification if unsure.	Do not guess instructions.
Use "say again" for unclear messages.	Do not use casual slang in formal communication.
Close with "out" only when finished.	Do not say "over and out" together.

5A.15 Practice Dialogues

Dialogue 1 - Calling Port Control

- Vessel: "Klang Port Control, Klang Port Control, this is MV Caspian Star, call sign EPXX, inbound from Singapore. ETA pilot station one-four-three-zero UTC. Request entry instructions, over."
- Port Control: "MV Caspian Star, proceed to pilot boarding ground Alpha. Maintain speed eight knots. Report passing Fairway Buoy, over."
- Vessel: "I will read back: proceed to pilot boarding ground Alpha, maintain speed eight knots, report passing Fairway Buoy. Is my read-back correct? Over."
- Port Control: "Read-back correct. Maintain listening watch on Channel one-two. Out."

Dialogue 2 - Calling Unknown Vessel

- Vessel: "Vessel on my port bow, bearing three-one-zero degrees, range two decimal eight miles, this is MV Caspian Star. Risk of collision exists. What are your intentions? Over."
- Other vessel: "MV Caspian Star, this is MV Blue Ocean. I will alter course to starboard and pass astern of you, over."
- Vessel: "Agreed. You will alter course to starboard and pass astern of me. I will maintain course and speed. Over."
- Other vessel: "Received. I will comply. Out."

Dialogue 3 - Pilot Boarding

- Vessel: "Pilot Station, this is MV Caspian Star. We are approaching pilot boarding position. Request boarding side and pilot ladder height, over."
- Pilot Station: "MV Caspian Star, rig pilot ladder on starboard side, two metres above water. Maintain speed six knots, over."
- Vessel: "Read back: pilot ladder on starboard side, two metres above water, speed six knots. Read-back correct? Over."
- Pilot Station: "Correct. Pilot boat will approach on starboard side. Out."

5A.16 Worksheets - VHF Calling and Confirmation Practice

- Write an initial call to Port Control for an inbound vessel approaching the pilot station.
- Write a VHF call to an unknown vessel on your starboard bow with risk of collision.
- Write a read-back for this instruction: "Proceed to Anchorage Bravo, maintain speed five knots, report passing Buoy Number Four."
- Write three ways to ask for clarification when a message is unclear.
- Write a polite refusal when you are unable to comply with a passing arrangement due to restricted manoeuvrability.
- Write a tug order using: make fast, pull easy, stop pulling, let go.

5A.17 Short Reference Notes

- The IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases are intended to reduce misunderstandings in safety-related ship-to-ship, shore-to-ship and onboard communication.
- International VHF channel tables are based on international frequency/channel arrangements, but national and port authorities may assign working channels differently.
- For distress, urgency and safety communications, follow GMDSS procedures, company SMS and the instructions of the relevant rescue or coast station.

Key reference sources used for this added section: IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases (Resolution A.918(22)); IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases overview; USCG Navigation Center International VHF Marine Radio Channels and Frequencies; ITU Radio Regulations distress and safety communication guidance. Roger/Copy/Affirmative note: these words are included because they are commonly heard in VHF practice, but for formal safety-critical communication the handbook recommends clearer SMCP-style phrases and read-back.

6. COLREGs in English

This section gives practical language for colregs in english. The phrases are examples for training and should be adapted to real circumstances and company procedures.

Situation	Phrase / expression	Meaning / note
Crossing	The other vessel is on our starboard side; we are the give-way vessel.	Rule explanation.
Stand-on	We are the stand-on vessel and will maintain course and speed unless action is required.	Use cautiously and with full context.
Overtaking	We are overtaking the vessel ahead and must keep clear.	Overtaking language.
Head-on	This is a head-on situation; both vessels should alter course to starboard.	Basic COLREGs expression.
Restricted visibility	In restricted visibility, we must proceed at a safe speed and use appropriate sound signals.	General safe-language expression.
Risk of collision	Risk of collision exists because the bearing is steady and the range is decreasing.	Technical explanation.
Action	The action must be positive, made in ample time, and readily apparent.	Professional wording.

Practice drill

- Explain crossing, head-on and overtaking situations in English.
- Use the words give-way vessel, stand-on vessel, risk of collision and positive action.

7. Port, Pilotage, Tug and Mooring

This section gives practical language for port, pilotage, tug and mooring. The phrases are examples for training and should be adapted to real circumstances and company procedures.

Situation	Phrase / expression	Meaning / note
Arrival	We are approaching the pilot station and request boarding instructions.	Calling port/pilot.
Pilot onboard	Pilot is onboard and the master-pilot exchange has been completed.	Bridge report.
Tug request	Request two tugs for berthing, one forward and one aft.	Tug arrangement.
Mooring station	Forward station, prepare headlines and breast lines.	Mooring order.
Let go anchor	Let go port anchor, three shackles in the water.	Anchoring phrase.
Heaving line	Send the heaving line ashore.	Mooring operation.
All fast	All lines fast fore and aft.	Completion of mooring.
Gangway	Rig the gangway and ensure safety net is properly secured.	Port safety.

Practice drill

- Make an arrival call to port control.
- Describe a pilot boarding operation.
- Give one mooring order to the forward station.

8. Emergency and Incident Reporting

This section gives practical language for emergency and incident reporting. The phrases are examples for training and should be adapted to real circumstances and company procedures.

Situation	Phrase / expression	Meaning / note
Fire	Fire reported in the engine room. Fire alarm activated. Emergency party mustered.	Emergency report.
MOB	Man overboard on starboard side. Lifebuoy released. Engine stopped.	MOB situation.
Grounding	Vessel touched bottom. Engine stopped. Soundings being taken around the vessel.	Initial grounding report.
Collision	Minor contact occurred with another vessel. Damage assessment is in progress.	Incident report.
Injury	One crew member injured. Medical first aid has been provided.	Medical report.
Pollution	Oil sheen observed near the vessel. Pollution response procedure activated.	Environmental incident.
Near miss	A near miss occurred due to close-quarters traffic. No contact or injury reported.	Safety reporting.

Practice drill

- Report one fire, one man-overboard and one grounding scenario.
- Include time, position, action taken and assistance required.

9. Cargo, Stability and Deck Operations

This section gives practical language for cargo, stability and deck operations. The phrases are examples for training and should be adapted to real circumstances and company procedures.

Situation	Phrase / expression	Meaning / note
Cargo watch	Cargo operations are in progress. Loading rate is ... tonnes per hour.	Watch report.
Draft	Arrival drafts are forward ... meters and aft ... meters.	Draft reporting.
Ballast	Ballast operation is in progress according to the ballast plan.	Stability/ballast.
Hatch cover	Hatch covers are secured and weather tightness is confirmed.	Deck readiness.
Cargo hold	Cargo hold inspection completed; hold is clean, dry and ready for loading.	Bulk cargo.
Lashing	Cargo lashing has been checked and found satisfactory.	Cargo securing.

Practice drill

- Give a cargo watch report.
- Report draft, loading rate and hatch-cover condition.

10. Basic Weather and Passage Communication

This short section gives only basic weather and passage communication phrases. Detailed routing theory and optimization methods are outside the scope of this handbook.

Situation	Phrase / expression	Meaning / note
Passage plan	The passage plan was prepared from berth to berth considering navigational hazards.	Basic passage planning.
Weather report	Weather forecast indicates increasing wind and swell along the planned route.	Weather awareness.
Deviation	A deviation from the planned route is recommended due to severe weather ahead.	Safety decision.
UKC	Under-keel clearance has been checked for the planned route.	Navigation safety.

Practice drill

- Report basic weather / visibility and explain if a safe deviation is required.
- Use clear VHF-style language when reporting weather-related safety concerns.

11. Maritime Interview Phrases

This section gives practical language for maritime interview phrases. The phrases are examples for training and should be adapted to real circumstances and company procedures.

Situation	Phrase / expression	Meaning / note
Strength	My main strength is safe decision-making under operational pressure.	Interview answer.
Weakness	I continuously improve my technical English and research skills.	Positive weakness.
Safety culture	I believe safety culture starts from leadership, communication and discipline.	Strong answer.
Incident learning	Every incident and near miss should be reported, analyzed and used for improvement.	Safety mindset.
Teamwork	An effective bridge team requires clear communication, mutual monitoring and assertiveness.	BRM answer.
Research value	My research background helps me analyze routing, fuel saving and navigation safety scientifically.	For academic/industry roles.

Practice drill

- Prepare a 60-second answer to Tell me about yourself.
- Prepare one example of leadership and one example of safety decision-making.

12. Topic-based Maritime Terminology

This section groups important maritime terms by topic. Use it as a quick learning list before going to the full A-Z glossary.

Bridge equipment

Term	Meaning / use
Radar	Detects targets and land by radio waves.
ECDIS	Electronic chart display and route monitoring system.
AIS	Information system showing vessel identity/position data.
Gyro repeater	Repeater displaying gyro heading.
Magnetic compass	Compass based on earth magnetic field.
Echo sounder	Instrument measuring depth under keel.
Speed log	Instrument measuring speed/distance.
VHF radio	Short-range marine communication radio.
BNWAS	Bridge watch alarm system.
Navtex	Receiver for maritime safety information.
Anemometer	Wind speed/direction instrument.
Barometer	Air pressure instrument.
Autopilot	Automatic steering system.
Rate of turn indicator	Shows turn rate.
Voyage data recorder	Records voyage/bridge data.

Safety and emergency

Term	Meaning / use
Muster station	Assigned assembly point in emergency.
Fire station	Area/team station for firefighting.
Emergency party	Crew team assigned emergency duties.
Rescue boat	Boat used for rescue operations.
Immersion suit	Thermal protective survival suit.
SCBA	Self-contained breathing apparatus.
Fire damper	Damper to stop air and fire spread.
Emergency stop	Device/action to stop machinery.
First aid kit	Medical supplies for first aid.
Emergency lighting	Lighting during power failure.
Damage assessment	Checking extent of damage.
Evacuation route	Route for emergency escape.
Mayday relay	Distress relay message.
Oil spill kit	Equipment for pollution response.

Port and pilotage

Term	Meaning / use
Pilot station	Location for pilot boarding.

Term	Meaning / use
Pilot boat	Boat carrying pilot.
Tug assistance	Use of tugs for maneuvering.
Berthing plan	Plan for placing ship at berth.
Mooring arrangement	Plan of lines and positions.
Quay	Solid structure where ship berths.
Jetty	Structure extending into water for berthing/loading.
Fendering	Protection between ship and quay.
Port clearance	Permission/documentation for entry/departure.
Harbour master	Port authority officer responsible for port safety.
Terminal operator	Company operating cargo terminal.
Free pratique	Health clearance for port entry.
Port dues	Fees paid to port authority.

Basic weather and passage terms

Term	Meaning / use
Low pressure	Weather system often associated with strong winds/bad weather.
High pressure	Weather system often associated with stable conditions.
Swell	Waves generated by distant wind.
Sea state	Condition of sea surface.
Current	Movement of water.
Tidal window	Time window suitable for tide/depth/current.
Weather forecast	Prediction of weather conditions.

13. Abbreviation Dictionary

The following abbreviations are commonly used in maritime operations, training, safety management, ship documents, port communication and research. Some abbreviations may have different meanings depending on company, port or vessel type; always check context.

Abbreviations - A

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning / use
AB	Able Seafarer / Able Bodied Seaman	Qualified deck rating.
ABS	American Bureau of Shipping	Classification society.
AIS	Automatic Identification System	Broadcasts vessel identity, position, course and speed.
ALRS	Admiralty List of Radio Signals	Radio communication publication.
AMSA	Australian Maritime Safety Authority	Australian maritime regulator.
ARPA	Automatic Radar Plotting Aid	Radar plotting and collision avoidance tool.
ATA	Actual Time of Arrival	Actual arrival time.
ATD	Actual Time of Departure	Actual departure time.
AWP	Annual Work Plan / Alternative Work Plan	Context-dependent business abbreviation.

Abbreviations - B

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning / use
BA	Breathing Apparatus	Firefighting/emergency equipment.
B/L	Bill of Lading	Cargo document and receipt.
BNWAS	Bridge Navigational Watch Alarm System	Bridge watch alarm system.
BOS	Ballast Operating System	Ballast control/operation context.
BRM	Bridge Resource Management	Teamwork, communication and decision-making on the bridge.
BT	Bow Thruster	Maneuvering equipment.

Abbreviations - C

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning / use
CBA	Collective Bargaining Agreement	Crew employment/labor agreement.
CBT	Computer Based Training	Training format.
CCR	Cargo Control Room	Cargo operation control space.
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television	Security/monitoring system.
C/E	Chief Engineer	Senior engineer officer.
CFR	Cost and Freight	Incoterms context.
CHIRP	Confidential Human Factors Incident Reporting Programme	Safety reporting organization.
C/O	Chief Officer / Chief Mate	Senior deck officer.
CO2	Carbon Dioxide	Fire extinguishing gas/system.
COC	Certificate of Competency	Professional seafarer certificate.
COE	Certificate of Endorsement	Flag-state endorsement.
COG	Course Over Ground	Actual course over seabed.

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning / use
COLREGs	International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea	Collision avoidance rules.
COSWP	Code of Safe Working Practices	Safety guidance used in shipping.
CPA	Closest Point of Approach	Minimum predicted distance to target.
CPD	Continuing Professional Development	Professional learning.
CSP	Cargo Securing Plan	Plan for cargo securing/lashing.
CSR	Continuous Synopsis Record	SOLAS ship history document.

Abbreviations - D

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning / use
D/A	Disbursement Account	Port cost account.
DAF	Delivered at Frontier	Trade term context.
DCS	Data Collection System	Fuel/emissions reporting context.
DG	Dangerous Goods	Hazardous cargo.
DOC	Document of Compliance	ISM document for company.
DP	Dynamic Positioning	Automatic position keeping system.
DPA	Designated Person Ashore	ISM link between ship and company.
DPO	Dynamic Positioning Operator	Officer/operator for DP vessels.
DWT	Deadweight Tonnage	Weight carrying capacity.

Abbreviations - E

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning / use
ECDIS	Electronic Chart Display and Information System	Electronic navigation chart system.
ENC	Electronic Navigational Chart	Official electronic chart.
EPIRB	Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon	Distress alert beacon.
ER	Engine Room	Machinery space.
ETA	Estimated Time of Arrival	Expected arrival time.
ETB	Estimated Time of Berthing	Expected berthing time.
ETD	Estimated Time of Departure	Expected departure time.

Abbreviations - F

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning / use
FAL	Facilitation Convention / Forms	Port clearance documentation context.
FBB	Freeboard	Distance from waterline to deck edge/freeboard deck.
FMEA	Failure Mode and Effects Analysis	Risk/technical assessment method.
FO	Fuel Oil	Fuel used by vessel.
FOB	Free On Board	Trade term.
FRC	Fast Rescue Craft	Rescue boat/craft.

Abbreviations - G

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning / use
G/A	General Average	Maritime loss-sharing principle.
GM	Metacentric Height	Stability measure.
GMDSS	Global Maritime Distress and Safety System	Distress and safety communication system.
GOC	General Operator Certificate	GMDSS operator certificate.
GPS	Global Positioning System	Satellite navigation system.
GT	Gross Tonnage	Ship size measurement.

Abbreviations - H

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning / use
HFO	Heavy Fuel Oil	Marine fuel.
HSE	Health, Safety and Environment	Safety management context.

Abbreviations - I

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning / use
IACS	International Association of Classification Societies	Association of class societies.
IAMSAR	International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual	SAR manual.
IAPH	International Association of Ports and Harbors	Port organization.

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning / use
ICS	International Chamber of Shipping	Shipowners association.
IGF	International Code of Safety for Ships using Gases or Low-flashpoint Fuels	Code for gas/low-flashpoint fuels.
ILO	International Labour Organization	MLC-related body.
IMDG	International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code	Dangerous goods code.
IMO	International Maritime Organization	UN specialized agency for shipping.
INMARSAT	International Mobile Satellite Organization / satellite services	Satellite communication context.
IOPP	International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate	MARPOL certificate.
ISM	International Safety Management Code	Safety management code.
ISPS	International Ship and Port Facility Security Code	Security code.
ISSC	International Ship Security Certificate	ISPS certificate.
ITF	International Transport Workers Federation	Seafarer labor organization.

Abbreviations - J

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning / use
JHA	Job Hazard Analysis	Task risk analysis.
JSA	Job Safety Analysis	Task safety analysis.

Abbreviations - L

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning / use
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas	Cargo/fuel.
LOA	Length Overall	Total vessel length.
LOP	Letter of Protest	Formal protest letter.
LRIT	Long-Range Identification and Tracking	Ship tracking system.
LSA	Life-Saving Appliances	Lifeboats, lifejackets, etc.

Abbreviations - M

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning / use
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships	Pollution prevention convention.
MCTC	Maritime Cook Islands? / crew training context	Context-dependent; verify usage.
ME	Main Engine	Main propulsion engine.
MEPC	Marine Environment Protection Committee	IMO committee.
MGO	Marine Gas Oil	Marine fuel.
MLC	Maritime Labour Convention	Seafarer labor convention.
MMSI	Maritime Mobile Service Identity	Unique radio identity number.
MOB	Man Overboard	Emergency situation.
MRCC	Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre	SAR coordination center.
MSC	Maritime Safety Committee	IMO committee.
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet	Chemical safety document.
MSL	Maximum Securing Load	Cargo securing limit.
MSQ	Maritime Safety Queensland	Regional maritime authority.
MTC	Moment to Change Trim by 1 cm	Stability calculation term.

Abbreviations - N

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning / use
NCSR	Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue	IMO sub-committee context.
NM	Nautical Mile	Distance at sea.
NMEA	National Marine Electronics Association	Marine electronics data standard.
NT	Net Tonnage	Ship tonnage measure.

Abbreviations - O

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning / use
OOW	Officer of the Watch	Watchkeeping officer.
OSC	On-Scene Coordinator	SAR coordinator at scene.

Abbreviations - P

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning / use
P&I	Protection and Indemnity	Marine liability insurance.

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning / use
PA	Public Address	Ship announcement system.
PFD	Personal Flotation Device	Lifejacket/flotation device.
PLB	Personal Locator Beacon	Personal distress beacon.
POB	Persons on Board	Number of persons onboard.
PSC	Port State Control	Inspection of foreign ships.
PSSA	Particularly Sensitive Sea Area	Protected sea area.

Abbreviations - Q

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning / use
QHSE	Quality, Health, Safety and Environment	Management system context.

Abbreviations - R

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning / use
RCC	Rescue Coordination Centre	Search and rescue center.
RCDS	Raster Chart Display System	ECDIS-related display mode.
RDF	Radio Direction Finder	Direction finding equipment.
RHIB	Rigid-Hulled Inflatable Boat	Fast boat.
RO	Recognized Organization	Organization authorized by flag state.
RO-RO	Roll-on/Roll-off	Vehicle/cargo vessel type.
RPM	Revolutions Per Minute	Engine/propeller speed.
RTA	Required Time of Arrival	Requested/optimized arrival time.

Abbreviations - S

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning / use
SART	Search and Rescue Transponder	SAR locating device.
SMC	Safety Management Certificate	ISM certificate for ship.
SMCP	Standard Marine Communication Phrases	Standard maritime communication phrase set.
SMS	Safety Management System	ISM system.
SOG	Speed Over Ground	Speed relative to ground.
SOLAS	Safety of Life at Sea Convention	Main ship safety convention.
SOPEP	Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plan	Oil pollution response plan.
SSAS	Ship Security Alert System	Ship security alert system.
SSO	Ship Security Officer	Officer responsible for ship security.
STCW	Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping	Seafarer training/certification convention.
SWL	Safe Working Load	Safe load limit.

Abbreviations - T

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning / use
TCPA	Time to Closest Point of Approach	Time until CPA.
TEU	Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit	Container capacity unit.
TSS	Traffic Separation Scheme	Organized traffic lanes.

Abbreviations - U

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning / use
UKC	Under-Keel Clearance	Distance between keel and seabed.
UMS	Unattended Machinery Space	Engine room operation mode.
UTC	Coordinated Universal Time	Time standard.

Abbreviations - V

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning / use
VDR	Voyage Data Recorder	Ship black box.
VHF	Very High Frequency	Radio communication band.
VLCC	Very Large Crude Carrier	Large tanker type.
VLSFO	Very Low Sulphur Fuel Oil	Low sulphur fuel.
VMC	Visual Meteorological Conditions	Aviation/marine weather context.
VTS	Vessel Traffic Service	Traffic information/control service.

Abbreviations - W

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning / use
WBT	Water Ballast Tank	Ballast tank.
WGS84	World Geodetic System 1984	Chart/GPS datum.
WMO	World Meteorological Organization	Weather organization.

14. A-Z Maritime Glossary

This A-Z glossary gives practical meanings of common maritime terms. It is written for communication, interviews and onboard understanding rather than legal interpretation.

Glossary - A

Term	Meaning / use
Abaft	Behind or toward the stern of a reference point.
Abandon ship	Emergency order to leave the vessel.
Abeam	At right angles to the fore-and-aft line of the ship.
Advance	Distance vessel moves ahead during a turn.
Aft	Toward the stern.
Aground	Touching or stuck on the seabed.
Ahead	Forward direction; in front of the vessel.
Air draft	Vertical distance from waterline to highest point of vessel.
Allision	Contact between a moving vessel and a fixed object.
Aloft	Above deck or high on the vessel.
Amidships	Middle part of the ship.
Anchor aweigh	Anchor is clear of the seabed.
Anchor dragging	Anchor is not holding and vessel is moving.
Anchorage	Designated area for vessels to anchor.
Anti-fouling	Coating used to prevent marine growth on hull.
Apparent wind	Wind felt onboard due to true wind and vessel movement.
Arrival draft	Draft on arrival at port or anchorage.
Arrival notice	Notification of vessel arrival.
Astern	Backward direction.
Athwartships	Across the ship from side to side.

Glossary - B

Term	Meaning / use
Ballast	Water or weight carried to improve stability/trim.
Ballast exchange	Changing ballast water at sea according to regulations/plan.
Ballast plan	Planned ballast operations for stability and stress control.
Beam	Width of the vessel at widest point.
Bearing	Direction of an object from own vessel.
Bending moment	Structural stress measure along the hull.
Berth	Place where a ship is moored at a port.
Bight	Loop in a rope; dangerous if under tension.
Bilge	Lowest internal part of the hull where liquids collect.
Bitter end	Inboard end of anchor cable/chain.
Boat drill	Emergency drill involving lifeboat/liferaft stations.
Bollard	Strong post on quay or deck for mooring lines.
Bow	Forward end of the vessel.
Bow thruster	Transverse propulsion device in bow for maneuvering.
Breakwater	Structure protecting harbor from waves.
Breast line	Mooring line leading roughly perpendicular to the ship.
Bridge	Navigation command area of the ship.
Bridge wing	Open/side area of bridge used during maneuvering.
Broaching	Loss of control with vessel turning broadside to waves.
Bulk carrier	Ship designed to carry unpackaged bulk cargo.
Bulkhead	Vertical partition inside the ship.
Bunker	Fuel used by the vessel; also fuel supply operation.
Bunkering	Taking fuel onboard.
Buoy	Floating navigation mark.

Glossary - C

Term	Meaning / use
Cargo gear	Equipment used for cargo operations.
Cargo hold	Space for carrying cargo.
Cargo securing manual	Approved manual for securing cargo.
Cast off	Let go mooring lines.
Certificate of registry	Document proving ship registration.

Term	Meaning / use
Chart correction	Updating chart with latest notices.
Chart datum	Reference level for charted depths.
Charter party	Contract for use/employment of vessel.
Chock	Deck fitting guiding mooring line.
Clearing bearing	Bearing used to ensure vessel remains clear of danger.
Cleat	Fitting used to secure rope/line.
Close-quarters situation	Situation where vessels are close enough to create risk.
Coaming	Raised border around hatch/opening.
Collision risk	Risk that two vessels may collide if no action is taken.
Companionway	Stairway/ladder between decks.
Compass error	Difference between compass reading and true direction.
Confined waters	Waters with limited room to maneuver.
Course alteration	Change in vessel course.
Course made good	Actual track achieved over ground.
Course over ground	Direction of vessel movement over ground.
Cowl ventilator	Ventilator opening/device.
Cradle	Support structure for boat/equipment.
Crossing situation	COLREGs situation where vessel paths cross.

Glossary - D

Term	Meaning / use
Damage control	Actions to limit damage/flooding/fire.
Dead reckoning	Position estimation from course, speed and time.
Deadweight	Weight a ship can safely carry.
Deck logbook	Official record of deck operations and events.
Departure report	Report sent after vessel departure.
Deviation	Compass error caused by ship magnetism; also route change.
Deviation card	Table of magnetic compass deviations.
Disembark	Leave the vessel.
Displacement	Weight of water displaced by the ship; equals ship weight.
Distress	Situation of grave and imminent danger requiring immediate assistance.
Docking	Bringing vessel into berth/dock.
Downflooding	Water entering through openings due to heel/flooding.
Draft	Vertical distance from waterline to keel.
Dragging anchor	When anchor fails to hold the vessel.
Draught survey	Cargo weight calculation using drafts/displacement.
Drift	Movement due to current/wind away from intended track.
Drill	Practice emergency exercise.

Glossary - E

Term	Meaning / use
ECDIS safety contour	Depth contour selected as safety boundary in ECDIS.
Embark	To board a vessel.
Emergency generator	Generator supplying essential power during blackout.
Enclosed space	Space with limited access/ventilation and possible dangerous atmosphere.
Enclosed space entry permit	Permit controlling entry into dangerous spaces.
ETA	Expected time of arrival.

Glossary - F

Term	Meaning / use
Fairway	Navigable channel/route in port or coastal waters.
Fathom	Depth unit equal to six feet.
Fender	Protective device between ship and berth/another ship.
Fetch	Distance over water that wind blows to create waves.
Fire boundary	Boundary limiting spread of fire.
Fire control plan	Plan showing firefighting equipment and arrangements.
Fix	Determined vessel position.
Flag state	Country where ship is registered.
Flammable range	Concentration range where gas can ignite.
Flare	Distress signaling device.
Forecastle	Forward upper deck area.
Forepeak tank	Tank in forward part of vessel.
Forward spring	Mooring line leading aft from forward area.
Free surface effect	Stability reduction caused by liquid moving in partially filled tank.
Freeboard	Distance between waterline and freeboard deck.

Glossary - G

Term	Meaning / use
Gangway	Access equipment between ship and shore.
Gangway watch	Security/safety watch at ship access.
General alarm	Alarm to summon crew to emergency stations.
Give-way vessel	Vessel required to keep clear under COLREGs.
Go/no-go area	Area considered safe/unsafe for navigation.
Grab	Cargo handling equipment for bulk cargo.
Great circle route	Shortest route on the surface of the earth.
Grounding	Contact of vessel with seabed.
Gyrocompass	Compass using gyroscopic principles to indicate true north.

Glossary - H

Term	Meaning / use
Hatch cover	Cover closing cargo hatch openings.
Head line	Mooring line leading forward from bow.
Head-on situation	Two power-driven vessels meeting on reciprocal or nearly reciprocal courses.
Heading	Direction the bow is pointing.
Heave up anchor	Recover anchor.
Heaving line	Light line used to send heavier mooring line ashore.
Heel	Temporary inclination due to external force.
Helm order	Steering command.
Hoist	Lift by crane or lifting gear.
Hot work	Work involving flames, heat or sparks.
Hot work permit	Permit controlling hot work hazards.
Hydrostatic particulars	Ship stability/displacement data.

Glossary - I

Term	Meaning / use
Incident investigation	Process to determine causes and corrective actions.
Inclinometer	Instrument showing angle of heel.
Inert gas	Gas used to reduce oxygen and explosion risk in tanks.
Initial report	First report after incident or emergency.
International voyage	Voyage between ports in different countries.

Glossary - J

Term	Meaning / use
Jettison	Throw cargo/equipment overboard in emergency.

Glossary - K

Term	Meaning / use
Keel	Main structural member along bottom of vessel.
Keel clearance	Same as under-keel clearance.
Knot	Speed of one nautical mile per hour.

Glossary - L

Term	Meaning / use
Lateral mark	Buoy/mark indicating port/starboard side of channel.
Laycan	Laydays/cancelling date window in chartering.
Leeward	Direction away from the wind.
Leeway	Sideways movement caused by wind.
Lifebuoy	Floating ring used in man-overboard emergency.
Lifejacket	Personal flotation device.
Liferaft	Inflatable survival craft.
List	Permanent transverse inclination of the ship.
Load line	Mark showing maximum permitted loading.
Local notice to mariners	Local navigation warning/update publication.
Log	Speed/distance measuring device; also official record.
Lookout	Person assigned to observe visually and by hearing.

Glossary - M

Term	Meaning / use
Magnetic bearing	Bearing referenced to magnetic north.
Magnetic course	Course referenced to magnetic north.
Main deck	Principal deck of a vessel.
Manifold	Connection area for cargo hoses/pipes.
Manning	Number and qualification of crew onboard.
Marine superintendent	Shore manager responsible for vessel operations.
MARPOL Annex	Part of MARPOL convention covering specific pollution type.
Master-pilot exchange	Information exchange between Master and Pilot before pilotage.
Mayday	Distress signal used in grave/imminent danger.
Medical evacuation	Evacuation of injured/sick person for medical care.
Metacentric height	Measure of initial stability.
Mooring	Securing vessel to berth/buoy with lines.
Mooring winch	Winch used to handle mooring lines.
Muster list	Emergency duties list for crew.

Glossary - N

Term	Meaning / use
Nautical mile	1,852 meters; sea distance unit.
Navigational audit	Review of navigation practices and compliance.
Navigational warning	Information warning mariners about hazards.
Not under command	Vessel unable to maneuver as required by rules.
Notice of readiness	Notice that vessel is ready for cargo operations.

Glossary - O

Term	Meaning / use
Off-hire	Period when vessel is not available under charter terms.
Offshore	Away from shore; also offshore industry context.
Oil record book	MARPOL record for oil operations.
On-scene coordinator	Person coordinating SAR actions at incident scene.
Open sea	Sea area away from coast and restrictions.
Overtaking vessel	Vessel approaching another from abaft the beam.

Glossary - P

Term	Meaning / use
Pan-Pan	Urgency signal.
Parallel indexing	Radar technique to monitor track relative to hazards.
Passage appraisal	First stage of passage planning: information gathering.
Passage execution	Conducting the voyage according to plan.
Passage monitoring	Checking vessel progress against plan.
Passage plan	Complete berth-to-berth navigation plan.
Passage planning	Appraisal, planning, execution and monitoring of voyage.
Permit to work	Formal control document for hazardous work.
Pilot boarding ground	Area where pilot boards the vessel.
Pilot card	Ship information card provided to pilot.
Pilot ladder	Ladder rigged for pilot boarding.
Piracy watch	Enhanced security watch in piracy risk area.
Pitching	Vessel movement up and down by bow/stern.
Port clearance	Permission/documents to enter/depart port.
Port side	Left side when facing forward.
Port state	Country whose port a foreign ship visits.
Port state control inspection	Inspection by port state authority.
Position line	Line on which vessel position lies.
Precautionary area	Area requiring special caution in navigation.
Preventer wire	Wire used for additional safety/backup.
Propeller race	Water stream produced by propeller.
Protest note	Formal statement protecting interests after incident/delay.

Glossary - Q

Term	Meaning / use
Quarter	After side area of a vessel.

Glossary - R

Term	Meaning / use
Radar conspicuous	Clearly visible on radar.
Range	Distance to an object.
Rate of turn	How fast ship is turning, degrees per minute.
Relative bearing	Bearing measured relative to ship heading.
Restricted area	Area where navigation/access is limited.
Restricted visibility	Condition where visibility is restricted by fog, mist, rain, snow, etc.
Rhumb line	Line crossing meridians at constant angle.
Risk assessment	Systematic identification and control of risks.
Roll	Side-to-side movement of vessel.
Rope stopper	Device/rope used to hold line temporarily.
Rudder angle	Angle of rudder from midship.

Glossary - S

Term	Meaning / use
Safe speed	Speed allowing proper and effective action to avoid collision.
Safety contour	ECDIS depth boundary selected for safe navigation.
Safety depth	Depth value set on ECDIS to highlight danger.
Safety meeting	Meeting to discuss safety issues/actions.
Sailing draft	Draft at departure/sailing.
SAR	Search and Rescue.
SART	Device used to locate survival craft or persons in SAR.
Sea room	Available safe water for maneuvering.
Seaworthiness	Fitness of vessel to safely proceed to sea.
Security level	ISPS security readiness level.
Set	Direction of current effect.
Shackle	Length of anchor chain; also U-shaped connector.
Sheer	Longitudinal curve of ship deck.
Ship handling	Maneuvering the vessel.
Shipboard familiarization	Training for crew to learn ship-specific systems.
Shipboard oil pollution emergency plan	Plan for oil pollution response.
Shore leave	Crew permission to go ashore.
Sighting	Visual observation of object/landmark.
Slack water	Period with little or no tidal stream.
Slop tank	Tank for cargo residues/washings.
Sludge	Oil residue/waste onboard.
SOLAS training manual	Ship-specific safety training documentation.
Sound signal	Audible signal required in certain navigation situations.
Sounding	Measurement of water depth or tank level.
Special area	Sea area with special pollution prevention rules.
Speed over ground	Actual speed over seabed.
Spring line	Mooring line preventing fore/aft movement.
Squat	Increase in draft and change of trim at speed in shallow water.
Stability	Ability of ship to return upright after heeling.
Stand-on vessel	Vessel which should maintain course and speed under COLREGs, when applicable.
Starboard side	Right side when facing forward.
Steady bearing	Bearing not changing, possible collision risk.
Stern	After end of the vessel.
Stern line	Mooring line leading aft from stern.
Stores	Supplies carried onboard.
Stowage factor	Volume per unit weight of cargo.
Stowage plan	Plan showing cargo stowage.
Stowaway	Person hidden onboard without permission.
Straddle carrier	Port equipment for moving containers.
Stranding	Running aground, usually on shore/rocks.
Survival craft	Lifeboat or liferaft.
Synoptic chart	Weather map.

Glossary - T

Term	Meaning / use
Tank cleaning	Cleaning cargo tanks.
Tanker	Vessel designed to carry liquid cargo in bulk.
Terminal	Port facility for cargo operations.
Tidal stream	Horizontal movement of water due to tide.
Towage	Assistance or movement by tug.
Traffic lane	Lane in traffic separation scheme.
Traffic organization	Measures controlling flow of vessel traffic.
Traffic separation scheme	Routeing measure separating opposing traffic streams.
Trim	Difference between forward and aft draft.

Term	Meaning / use
Tropical storm	Severe rotating storm system.
True course	Course referenced to true north.
Tug made fast	Tug connected to vessel.
Turn circle	Path of vessel during full turn.

Glossary - U

Term	Meaning / use
Unberthing	Leaving a berth.
Under-keel clearance	Clearance between keel and seabed.
Unsafe act	Human action increasing risk.
Unsafe condition	Hazardous condition increasing risk.
Urgency	Situation concerning safety of ship/person requiring urgent communication.

Glossary - V

Term	Meaning / use
Vessel constrained by draft	Vessel restricted by draft in available depth.
Vessel restricted in ability to manoeuvre	Vessel unable to keep out of the way due to nature of work.
Vessel traffic service	Shore-based service for traffic safety/efficiency.
Voyage data recorder	Records ship data/audio like black box.
Voyage order	Instructions for a voyage.

Glossary - W

Term	Meaning / use
Watchkeeping	Maintaining navigational/operational watch.
Water ingress	Entry of water into vessel.
Watertight door	Door preventing water passage when closed.
Waypoint	Planned position in route.
Weather deck	Deck exposed to weather.
Wheelhouse	Bridge/navigation space.
Winch	Mechanical equipment for pulling/handling lines.
Windward	Direction from which wind is coming.

Glossary - Y

Term	Meaning / use
Yaw	Swinging of vessel head from side to side.

15. Worksheets and Templates

Use these worksheets for self-study, online coaching, class practice or as bonus material when selling the handbook.

Self-introduction template

My name is _____. I am a _____ with experience on _____ vessels.

I have experience in _____, _____ and _____.

I hold certificates including _____, _____ and _____.

My current professional interest is _____.

I am looking for opportunities in _____.

Watch handover checklist

Present position: _____

Course / speed: _____

Next waypoint / ETA: _____

Traffic situation: _____

Weather / visibility: _____

Standing orders: _____

Equipment status: _____

Special instructions: _____

VHF message builder

Called station: _____

Own vessel: _____

Message marker: Warning / Advice / Information / Question / Request / Instruction

Position: _____

Main message: _____

Required action: _____

End: Over / Out

Incident report template

Date and time: _____

Position / location: _____

Type of incident: _____

Persons involved: _____

What happened: _____

Immediate action taken: _____

Damage / injury / pollution: _____

Notification made to: _____

Corrective action recommended: _____

Interview answer builder

Tell me about yourself: _____

What is your sea experience? _____

What is your strongest skill? _____

Describe a difficult situation onboard: _____

How do you manage safety? _____

Why should we hire you? _____

16. Final Revision Checklists

Bridge communication checklist

- Speak clearly and calmly.
- Use bearings, ranges, course, speed and time.
- Report risk early.
- Call the Master when required.
- Confirm instructions and avoid assumptions.

VHF checklist

- Identify called station and own vessel.
- Use message markers when useful: Warning, Advice, Information, Question, Request, Instruction.
- Keep messages short.
- Repeat unclear messages.
- Say numbers clearly.

Interview checklist

- Prepare a 60-second introduction.
- Know your vessel types, ranks and sea-service summary.
- Explain one safety example and one leadership example.
- Prepare your certificates and availability.

- Be honest about your experience and limitations.

Maritime English self-test

6. Can I introduce myself professionally in 60 seconds?
7. Can I explain CPA, TCPA, course, speed and bearing?
8. Can I make a basic VHF request and warning?
9. Can I explain crossing, head-on and overtaking situations?
10. Can I write a short incident report?
11. Can I explain my certificates and experience in an interview?

End of handbook

Keep improving your maritime English by reading official notices, safety reports, company SMS procedures, navigational warnings, port instructions and maritime accident reports. Professional communication is a safety skill.

Bonus Appendix A - Detailed Abbreviation Dictionary

This appendix expands the abbreviation list into a quick professional reference. Some abbreviations may have different meanings depending on vessel type, company, port, flag state or document context. Always confirm the meaning from the context.

Abbreviations - Letter A

AB

Full form: Able Seafarer / Able Bodied Seaman

Meaning / use: Qualified deck rating.

Example use: Use AB carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

ABS

Full form: American Bureau of Shipping

Meaning / use: Classification society.

Example use: Use ABS carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

AIS

Full form: Automatic Identification System

Meaning / use: Broadcasts vessel identity, position, course and speed.

Example use: Use AIS carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

ALRS

Full form: Admiralty List of Radio Signals

Meaning / use: Radio communication publication.

Example use: Use ALRS carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

AMSA

Full form: Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Meaning / use: Australian maritime regulator.

Example use: Use AMSA carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

ARPA

Full form: Automatic Radar Plotting Aid

Meaning / use: Radar plotting and collision avoidance tool.

Example use: Use ARPA carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

ATA

Full form: Actual Time of Arrival

Meaning / use: Actual arrival time.

Example use: Use ATA carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

ATD

Full form: Actual Time of Departure

Meaning / use: Actual departure time.

Example use: Use ATD carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

AWP

Full form: Annual Work Plan / Alternative Work Plan

Meaning / use: Context-dependent business abbreviation.

Example use: Use AWP carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

Abbreviations - Letter B

BA

Full form: Breathing Apparatus

Meaning / use: Firefighting/emergency equipment.

Example use: Use BA carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

B/L

Full form: Bill of Lading

Meaning / use: Cargo document and receipt.

Example use: Use B/L carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

BNWAS

Full form: Bridge Navigational Watch Alarm System

Meaning / use: Bridge watch alarm system.

Example use: Use BNWAS carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

BOS

Full form: Ballast Operating System

Meaning / use: Ballast control/operation context.

Example use: Use BOS carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

BRM

Full form: Bridge Resource Management

Meaning / use: Teamwork, communication and decision-making on the bridge.

Example use: Use BRM carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

BT

Full form: Bow Thruster

Meaning / use: Maneuvering equipment.

Example use: Use BT carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

Abbreviations - Letter C

CBA

Full form: Collective Bargaining Agreement

Meaning / use: Crew employment/labor agreement.

Example use: Use CBA carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

CBT

Full form: Computer Based Training

Meaning / use: Training format.

Example use: Use CBT carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

CCR

Full form: Cargo Control Room

Meaning / use: Cargo operation control space.

Example use: Use CCR carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

CCTV

Full form: Closed Circuit Television

Meaning / use: Security/monitoring system.

Example use: Use CCTV carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

C/E

Full form: Chief Engineer

Meaning / use: Senior engineer officer.

Example use: Use C/E carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

CFR

Full form: Cost and Freight

Meaning / use: Incoterms context.

Example use: Use CFR carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

CHIRP

Full form: Confidential Human Factors Incident Reporting Programme

Meaning / use: Safety reporting organization.

Example use: Use CHIRP carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

C/O

Full form: Chief Officer / Chief Mate

Meaning / use: Senior deck officer.

Example use: Use C/O carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

CO2

Full form: Carbon Dioxide

Meaning / use: Fire extinguishing gas/system.

Example use: Use CO2 carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

COC

Full form: Certificate of Competency

Meaning / use: Professional seafarer certificate.

Example use: Use COC carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

COE

Full form: Certificate of Endorsement

Meaning / use: Flag-state endorsement.

Example use: Use COE carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

COG

Full form: Course Over Ground

Meaning / use: Actual course over seabed.

Example use: Use COG carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

COLREGs

Full form: International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea

Meaning / use: Collision avoidance rules.

Example use: Use COLREGs carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

COSWP

Full form: Code of Safe Working Practices

Meaning / use: Safety guidance used in shipping.

Example use: Use COSWP carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

CPA

Full form: Closest Point of Approach

Meaning / use: Minimum predicted distance to target.

Example use: Use CPA carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

CPD

Full form: Continuing Professional Development

Meaning / use: Professional learning.

Example use: Use CPD carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

CSP

Full form: Cargo Securing Plan

Meaning / use: Plan for cargo securing/lashing.

Example use: Use CSP carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

CSR

Full form: Continuous Synopsis Record

Meaning / use: SOLAS ship history document.

Example use: Use CSR carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

Abbreviations - Letter D

D/A

Full form: Disbursement Account

Meaning / use: Port cost account.

Example use: Use D/A carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

DAF

Full form: Delivered at Frontier

Meaning / use: Trade term context.

Example use: Use DAF carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

DCS

Full form: Data Collection System

Meaning / use: Fuel/emissions reporting context.

Example use: Use DCS carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

DG

Full form: Dangerous Goods

Meaning / use: Hazardous cargo.

Example use: Use DG carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

DOC

Full form: Document of Compliance

Meaning / use: ISM document for company.

Example use: Use DOC carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

DP

Full form: Dynamic Positioning

Meaning / use: Automatic position keeping system.

Example use: Use DP carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

DPA

Full form: Designated Person Ashore

Meaning / use: ISM link between ship and company.

Example use: Use DPA carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

DPO

Full form: Dynamic Positioning Operator

Meaning / use: Officer/operator for DP vessels.

Example use: Use DPO carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

DWT

Full form: Deadweight Tonnage

Meaning / use: Weight carrying capacity.

Example use: Use DWT carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

Abbreviations - Letter E

ECDIS

Full form: Electronic Chart Display and Information System

Meaning / use: Electronic navigation chart system.

Example use: Use ECDIS carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

ENC

Full form: Electronic Navigational Chart

Meaning / use: Official electronic chart.

Example use: Use ENC carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

EPIRB

Full form: Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon

Meaning / use: Distress alert beacon.

Example use: Use EPIRB carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

ER

Full form: Engine Room

Meaning / use: Machinery space.

Example use: Use ER carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

ETA

Full form: Estimated Time of Arrival

Meaning / use: Expected arrival time.

Example use: Use ETA carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

ETB

Full form: Estimated Time of Berthing

Meaning / use: Expected berthing time.

Example use: Use ETB carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

ETD

Full form: Estimated Time of Departure

Meaning / use: Expected departure time.

Example use: Use ETD carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

Abbreviations - Letter F

FAL

Full form: Facilitation Convention / Forms

Meaning / use: Port clearance documentation context.

Example use: Use FAL carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

FBB

Full form: Freeboard

Meaning / use: Distance from waterline to deck edge/freeboard deck.

Example use: Use FBB carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

FMEA

Full form: Failure Mode and Effects Analysis

Meaning / use: Risk/technical assessment method.

Example use: Use FMEA carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

FO

Full form: Fuel Oil

Meaning / use: Fuel used by vessel.

Example use: Use FO carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

FOB

Full form: Free On Board

Meaning / use: Trade term.

Example use: Use FOB carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

FRC

Full form: Fast Rescue Craft

Meaning / use: Rescue boat/craft.

Example use: Use FRC carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

Abbreviations - Letter G

G/A

Full form: General Average

Meaning / use: Maritime loss-sharing principle.

Example use: Use G/A carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

GM

Full form: Metacentric Height

Meaning / use: Stability measure.

Example use: Use GM carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

GMDSS

Full form: Global Maritime Distress and Safety System

Meaning / use: Distress and safety communication system.

Example use: Use GMDSS carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

GOC

Full form: General Operator Certificate

Meaning / use: GMDSS operator certificate.

Example use: Use GOC carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

GPS

Full form: Global Positioning System

Meaning / use: Satellite navigation system.

Example use: Use GPS carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

GT

Full form: Gross Tonnage

Meaning / use: Ship size measurement.

Example use: Use GT carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

Abbreviations - Letter H

HFO

Full form: Heavy Fuel Oil

Meaning / use: Marine fuel.

Example use: Use HFO carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

HSE

Full form: Health, Safety and Environment

Meaning / use: Safety management context.

Example use: Use HSE carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

Abbreviations - Letter I

IACS

Full form: International Association of Classification Societies

Meaning / use: Association of class societies.

Example use: Use IACS carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

IAMSAR

Full form: International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual

Meaning / use: SAR manual.

Example use: Use IAMSAR carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

IAPH

Full form: International Association of Ports and Harbors

Meaning / use: Port organization.

Example use: Use IAPH carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

ICS

Full form: International Chamber of Shipping

Meaning / use: Shipowners association.

Example use: Use ICS carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

IGF

Full form: International Code of Safety for Ships using Gases or Low-flashpoint Fuels

Meaning / use: Code for gas/low-flashpoint fuels.

Example use: Use IGF carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

ILO

Full form: International Labour Organization

Meaning / use: MLC-related body.

Example use: Use ILO carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

IMDG

Full form: International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code

Meaning / use: Dangerous goods code.

Example use: Use IMDG carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

IMO

Full form: International Maritime Organization

Meaning / use: UN specialized agency for shipping.

Example use: Use IMO carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

INMARSAT

Full form: International Mobile Satellite Organization / satellite services

Meaning / use: Satellite communication context.

Example use: Use INMARSAT carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

IOPP

Full form: International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate

Meaning / use: MARPOL certificate.

Example use: Use IOPP carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

ISM

Full form: International Safety Management Code

Meaning / use: Safety management code.

Example use: Use ISM carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

ISPS

Full form: International Ship and Port Facility Security Code

Meaning / use: Security code.

Example use: Use ISPS carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

ISSC

Full form: International Ship Security Certificate

Meaning / use: ISPS certificate.

Example use: Use ISSC carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

ITF

Full form: International Transport Workers Federation

Meaning / use: Seafarer labor organization.

Example use: Use ITF carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

Abbreviations - Letter J

JHA

Full form: Job Hazard Analysis

Meaning / use: Task risk analysis.

Example use: Use JHA carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

JSA

Full form: Job Safety Analysis

Meaning / use: Task safety analysis.

Example use: Use JSA carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

Abbreviations - Letter L

LNG

Full form: Liquefied Natural Gas

Meaning / use: Cargo/fuel.

Example use: Use LNG carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

LOA

Full form: Length Overall

Meaning / use: Total vessel length.

Example use: Use LOA carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

LOP

Full form: Letter of Protest

Meaning / use: Formal protest letter.

Example use: Use LOP carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

LRIT

Full form: Long-Range Identification and Tracking

Meaning / use: Ship tracking system.

Example use: Use LRIT carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

LSA

Full form: Life-Saving Appliances

Meaning / use: Lifeboats, lifejackets, etc.

Example use: Use LSA carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

Abbreviations - Letter M

MARPOL

Full form: International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships

Meaning / use: Pollution prevention convention.

Example use: Use MARPOL carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

MCTC

Full form: Maritime Cook Islands? / crew training context

Meaning / use: Context-dependent; verify usage.

Example use: Use MCTC carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

ME

Full form: Main Engine

Meaning / use: Main propulsion engine.

Example use: Use ME carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

MEPC

Full form: Marine Environment Protection Committee

Meaning / use: IMO committee.

Example use: Use MEPC carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

MGO

Full form: Marine Gas Oil

Meaning / use: Marine fuel.

Example use: Use MGO carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

MLC

Full form: Maritime Labour Convention

Meaning / use: Seafarer labor convention.

Example use: Use MLC carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

MMSI

Full form: Maritime Mobile Service Identity

Meaning / use: Unique radio identity number.

Example use: Use MMSI carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

MOB

Full form: Man Overboard

Meaning / use: Emergency situation.

Example use: Use MOB carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

MRCC

Full form: Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre

Meaning / use: SAR coordination center.

Example use: Use MRCC carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

MSC

Full form: Maritime Safety Committee

Meaning / use: IMO committee.

Example use: Use MSC carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

MSDS

Full form: Material Safety Data Sheet

Meaning / use: Chemical safety document.

Example use: Use MSDS carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

MSL

Full form: Maximum Securing Load

Meaning / use: Cargo securing limit.

Example use: Use MSL carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

MSQ

Full form: Maritime Safety Queensland

Meaning / use: Regional maritime authority.

Example use: Use MSQ carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

MTC

Full form: Moment to Change Trim by 1 cm

Meaning / use: Stability calculation term.

Example use: Use MTC carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

Abbreviations - Letter N

NCSR

Full form: Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue

Meaning / use: IMO sub-committee context.

Example use: Use NCSR carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

NM

Full form: Nautical Mile

Meaning / use: Distance at sea.

Example use: Use NM carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

NMEA

Full form: National Marine Electronics Association

Meaning / use: Marine electronics data standard.

Example use: Use NMEA carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

NT

Full form: Net Tonnage

Meaning / use: Ship tonnage measure.

Example use: Use NT carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

Abbreviations - Letter O

OOW

Full form: Officer of the Watch

Meaning / use: Watchkeeping officer.

Example use: Use OOW carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

OSC

Full form: On-Scene Coordinator

Meaning / use: SAR coordinator at scene.

Example use: Use OSC carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

Abbreviations - Letter P

P&I

Full form: Protection and Indemnity

Meaning / use: Marine liability insurance.

Example use: Use P&I carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

PA

Full form: Public Address

Meaning / use: Ship announcement system.

Example use: Use PA carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

PFD

Full form: Personal Flotation Device

Meaning / use: Lifejacket/flotation device.

Example use: Use PFD carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

PLB

Full form: Personal Locator Beacon

Meaning / use: Personal distress beacon.

Example use: Use PLB carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

POB

Full form: Persons on Board

Meaning / use: Number of persons onboard.

Example use: Use POB carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

PSC

Full form: Port State Control

Meaning / use: Inspection of foreign ships.

Example use: Use PSC carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

PSSA

Full form: Particularly Sensitive Sea Area

Meaning / use: Protected sea area.

Example use: Use PSSA carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

Abbreviations - Letter Q

QHSE

Full form: Quality, Health, Safety and Environment

Meaning / use: Management system context.

Example use: Use QHSE carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

Abbreviations - Letter R

RCC

Full form: Rescue Coordination Centre

Meaning / use: Search and rescue center.

Example use: Use RCC carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

RCDS

Full form: Raster Chart Display System

Meaning / use: ECDIS-related display mode.

Example use: Use RCDS carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

RDF

Full form: Radio Direction Finder

Meaning / use: Direction finding equipment.

Example use: Use RDF carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

RHIB

Full form: Rigid-Hulled Inflatable Boat

Meaning / use: Fast boat.

Example use: Use RHIB carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

RO

Full form: Recognized Organization

Meaning / use: Organization authorized by flag state.

Example use: Use RO carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

RO-RO

Full form: Roll-on/Roll-off

Meaning / use: Vehicle/cargo vessel type.

Example use: Use RO-RO carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

RPM

Full form: Revolutions Per Minute

Meaning / use: Engine/propeller speed.

Example use: Use RPM carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

RTA

Full form: Required Time of Arrival

Meaning / use: Requested/optimized arrival time.

Example use: Use RTA carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

Abbreviations - Letter S

SART

Full form: Search and Rescue Transponder

Meaning / use: SAR locating device.

Example use: Use SART carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

SMC

Full form: Safety Management Certificate

Meaning / use: ISM certificate for ship.

Example use: Use SMC carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

SMCP

Full form: Standard Marine Communication Phrases

Meaning / use: Standard maritime communication phrase set.

Example use: Use SMCP carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

SMS

Full form: Safety Management System

Meaning / use: ISM system.

Example use: Use SMS carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

SOG

Full form: Speed Over Ground

Meaning / use: Speed relative to ground.

Example use: Use SOG carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

SOLAS

Full form: Safety of Life at Sea Convention

Meaning / use: Main ship safety convention.

Example use: Use SOLAS carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

SOPEP

Full form: Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plan

Meaning / use: Oil pollution response plan.

Example use: Use SOPEP carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

SSAS

Full form: Ship Security Alert System

Meaning / use: Ship security alert system.

Example use: Use SSAS carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

SSO

Full form: Ship Security Officer

Meaning / use: Officer responsible for ship security.

Example use: Use SSO carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

STCW

Full form: Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping

Meaning / use: Seafarer training/certification convention.

Example use: Use STCW carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

SWL

Full form: Safe Working Load

Meaning / use: Safe load limit.

Example use: Use SWL carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

Abbreviations - Letter T

TCPA

Full form: Time to Closest Point of Approach

Meaning / use: Time until CPA.

Example use: Use TCPA carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

TEU

Full form: Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit

Meaning / use: Container capacity unit.

Example use: Use TEU carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

TSS

Full form: Traffic Separation Scheme

Meaning / use: Organized traffic lanes.

Example use: Use TSS carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

Abbreviations - Letter U

UKC

Full form: Under-Keel Clearance

Meaning / use: Distance between keel and seabed.

Example use: Use UKC carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

UMS

Full form: Unattended Machinery Space

Meaning / use: Engine room operation mode.

Example use: Use UMS carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

UTC

Full form: Coordinated Universal Time

Meaning / use: Time standard.

Example use: Use UTC carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

Abbreviations - Letter V

VDR

Full form: Voyage Data Recorder

Meaning / use: Ship black box.

Example use: Use VDR carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

VHF

Full form: Very High Frequency

Meaning / use: Radio communication band.

Example use: Use VHF carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

VLCC

Full form: Very Large Crude Carrier

Meaning / use: Large tanker type.

Example use: Use VLCC carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

VLSFO

Full form: Very Low Sulphur Fuel Oil

Meaning / use: Low sulphur fuel.

Example use: Use VLSFO carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

VMC

Full form: Visual Meteorological Conditions

Meaning / use: Aviation/marine weather context.

Example use: Use VMC carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

VTS

Full form: Vessel Traffic Service

Meaning / use: Traffic information/control service.

Example use: Use VTS carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

Abbreviations - Letter W

WBT

Full form: Water Ballast Tank

Meaning / use: Ballast tank.

Example use: Use WBT carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

WGS84

Full form: World Geodetic System 1984

Meaning / use: Chart/GPS datum.

Example use: Use WGS84 carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

WMO

Full form: World Meteorological Organization

Meaning / use: Weather organization.

Example use: Use WMO carefully in reports, checklists, emails, interviews and onboard communication where the context is clear.

Bonus Appendix B - Detailed A-Z Maritime Terminology Dictionary

This detailed dictionary is designed for deck officers, cadets and maritime students who want to build professional vocabulary for bridge communication, safety reporting, port operations, interviews and maritime study.

Maritime Terms - Letter A

Abaft

Meaning: Behind or toward the stern of a reference point.

Professional example: Example: The term "Abaft" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Abandon ship

Meaning: Emergency order to leave the vessel.

Professional example: Example: The term "Abandon ship" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Abeam

Meaning: At right angles to the fore-and-aft line of the ship.

Professional example: Example: The term "Abeam" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Advance

Meaning: Distance vessel moves ahead during a turn.

Professional example: Example: The term "Advance" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Aft

Meaning: Toward the stern.

Professional example: Example: The term "Aft" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Aground

Meaning: Touching or stuck on the seabed.

Professional example: Example: The term "Aground" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Ahead

Meaning: Forward direction; in front of the vessel.

Professional example: Example: The term "Ahead" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Air draft

Meaning: Vertical distance from waterline to highest point of vessel.

Professional example: Example: The term "Air draft" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Allision

Meaning: Contact between a moving vessel and a fixed object.

Professional example: Example: The term "Allision" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Aloft

Meaning: Above deck or high on the vessel.

Professional example: Example: The term "Aloft" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Amidships

Meaning: Middle part of the ship.

Professional example: Example: The term "Amidships" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Anchor aweigh

Meaning: Anchor is clear of the seabed.

Professional example: Example: The term "Anchor aweigh" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions,

safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Anchor dragging

Meaning: Anchor is not holding and vessel is moving.

Professional example: Example: The term "Anchor dragging" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Anchorage

Meaning: Designated area for vessels to anchor.

Professional example: Example: The term "Anchorage" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Anti-fouling

Meaning: Coating used to prevent marine growth on hull.

Professional example: Example: The term "Anti-fouling" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Apparent wind

Meaning: Wind felt onboard due to true wind and vessel movement.

Professional example: Example: The term "Apparent wind" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Arrival draft

Meaning: Draft on arrival at port or anchorage.

Professional example: Example: The term "Arrival draft" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Arrival notice

Meaning: Notification of vessel arrival.

Professional example: Example: The term "Arrival notice" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Astern

Meaning: Backward direction.

Professional example: Example: The term "Astern" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Athwartships

Meaning: Across the ship from side to side.

Professional example: Example: The term "Athwartships" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Maritime Terms - Letter B

Ballast

Meaning: Water or weight carried to improve stability/trim.

Professional example: Example: The term "Ballast" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Ballast exchange

Meaning: Changing ballast water at sea according to regulations/plan.

Professional example: Example: The term "Ballast exchange" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Ballast plan

Meaning: Planned ballast operations for stability and stress control.

Professional example: Example: The term "Ballast plan" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Beam

Meaning: Width of the vessel at widest point.

Professional example: Example: The term "Beam" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Bearing

Meaning: Direction of an object from own vessel.

Professional example: Example: The term "Bearing" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Bending moment

Meaning: Structural stress measure along the hull.

Professional example: Example: The term "Bending moment" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Berth

Meaning: Place where a ship is moored at a port.

Professional example: Example: The term "Berth" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Bight

Meaning: Loop in a rope; dangerous if under tension.

Professional example: Example: The term "Bight" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Bilge

Meaning: Lowest internal part of the hull where liquids collect.

Professional example: Example: The term "Bilge" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Bitter end

Meaning: Inboard end of anchor cable/chain.

Professional example: Example: The term "Bitter end" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Boat drill

Meaning: Emergency drill involving lifeboat/liferaft stations.

Professional example: Example: The term "Boat drill" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Bollard

Meaning: Strong post on quay or deck for mooring lines.

Professional example: Example: The term "Bollard" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Bow

Meaning: Forward end of the vessel.

Professional example: Example: The term "Bow" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Bow thruster

Meaning: Transverse propulsion device in bow for maneuvering.

Professional example: Example: The term "Bow thruster" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Breakwater

Meaning: Structure protecting harbor from waves.

Professional example: Example: The term "Breakwater" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Breast line

Meaning: Mooring line leading roughly perpendicular to the ship.

Professional example: Example: The term "Breast line" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Bridge

Meaning: Navigation command area of the ship.

Professional example: Example: The term "Bridge" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Bridge wing

Meaning: Open/side area of bridge used during maneuvering.

Professional example: Example: The term "Bridge wing" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Broaching

Meaning: Loss of control with vessel turning broadside to waves.

Professional example: Example: The term "Broaching" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Bulk carrier

Meaning: Ship designed to carry unpackaged bulk cargo.

Professional example: Example: The term "Bulk carrier" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions,

safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Bulkhead

Meaning: Vertical partition inside the ship.

Professional example: Example: The term "Bulkhead" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Bunker

Meaning: Fuel used by the vessel; also fuel supply operation.

Professional example: Example: The term "Bunker" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Bunkering

Meaning: Taking fuel onboard.

Professional example: Example: The term "Bunkering" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Buoy

Meaning: Floating navigation mark.

Professional example: Example: The term "Buoy" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Maritime Terms - Letter C

Cargo gear

Meaning: Equipment used for cargo operations.

Professional example: Example: The term "Cargo gear" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Cargo hold

Meaning: Space for carrying cargo.

Professional example: Example: The term "Cargo hold" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Cargo securing manual

Meaning: Approved manual for securing cargo.

Professional example: Example: The term "Cargo securing manual" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Cast off

Meaning: Let go mooring lines.

Professional example: Example: The term "Cast off" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Certificate of registry

Meaning: Document proving ship registration.

Professional example: Example: The term "Certificate of registry" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Chart correction

Meaning: Updating chart with latest notices.

Professional example: Example: The term "Chart correction" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Chart datum

Meaning: Reference level for charted depths.

Professional example: Example: The term "Chart datum" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Charter party

Meaning: Contract for use/employment of vessel.

Professional example: Example: The term "Charter party" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Chock

Meaning: Deck fitting guiding mooring line.

Professional example: Example: The term "Chock" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Clearing bearing

Meaning: Bearing used to ensure vessel remains clear of danger.

Professional example: Example: The term "Clearing bearing" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Cleat

Meaning: Fitting used to secure rope/line.

Professional example: Example: The term "Cleat" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Close-quarters situation

Meaning: Situation where vessels are close enough to create risk.

Professional example: Example: The term "Close-quarters situation" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Coaming

Meaning: Raised border around hatch/opening.

Professional example: Example: The term "Coaming" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Collision risk

Meaning: Risk that two vessels may collide if no action is taken.

Professional example: Example: The term "Collision risk" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Companionway

Meaning: Stairway/ladder between decks.

Professional example: Example: The term "Companionway" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Compass error

Meaning: Difference between compass reading and true direction.

Professional example: Example: The term "Compass error" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Confined waters

Meaning: Waters with limited room to maneuver.

Professional example: Example: The term "Confined waters" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Course alteration

Meaning: Change in vessel course.

Professional example: Example: The term "Course alteration" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Course made good

Meaning: Actual track achieved over ground.

Professional example: Example: The term "Course made good" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Course over ground

Meaning: Direction of vessel movement over ground.

Professional example: Example: The term "Course over ground" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Cowl ventilator

Meaning: Ventilator opening/device.

Professional example: Example: The term "Cowl ventilator" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Cradle

Meaning: Support structure for boat/equipment.

Professional example: Example: The term "Cradle" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Crossing situation

Meaning: COLREGs situation where vessel paths cross.

Professional example: Example: The term "Crossing situation" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Maritime Terms - Letter D

Damage control

Meaning: Actions to limit damage/flooding/fire.

Professional example: Example: The term "Damage control" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Dead reckoning

Meaning: Position estimation from course, speed and time.

Professional example: Example: The term "Dead reckoning" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Deadweight

Meaning: Weight a ship can safely carry.

Professional example: Example: The term "Deadweight" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Deck logbook

Meaning: Official record of deck operations and events.

Professional example: Example: The term "Deck logbook" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Departure report

Meaning: Report sent after vessel departure.

Professional example: Example: The term "Departure report" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Deviation

Meaning: Compass error caused by ship magnetism; also route change.

Professional example: Example: The term "Deviation" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Deviation card

Meaning: Table of magnetic compass deviations.

Professional example: Example: The term "Deviation card" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Disembark

Meaning: Leave the vessel.

Professional example: Example: The term "Disembark" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Displacement

Meaning: Weight of water displaced by the ship; equals ship weight.

Professional example: Example: The term "Displacement" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Distress

Meaning: Situation of grave and imminent danger requiring immediate assistance.

Professional example: Example: The term "Distress" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Docking

Meaning: Bringing vessel into berth/dock.

Professional example: Example: The term "Docking" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Downflooding

Meaning: Water entering through openings due to heel/flooding.

Professional example: Example: The term "Downflooding" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Draft

Meaning: Vertical distance from waterline to keel.

Professional example: Example: The term "Draft" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Dragging anchor

Meaning: When anchor fails to hold the vessel.

Professional example: Example: The term "Dragging anchor" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Draught survey

Meaning: Cargo weight calculation using drafts/displacement.

Professional example: Example: The term "Draught survey" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Drift

Meaning: Movement due to current/wind away from intended track.

Professional example: Example: The term "Drift" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Drill

Meaning: Practice emergency exercise.

Professional example: Example: The term "Drill" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Maritime Terms - Letter E

ECDIS safety contour

Meaning: Depth contour selected as safety boundary in ECDIS.

Professional example: Example: The term "ECDIS safety contour" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Embark

Meaning: To board a vessel.

Professional example: Example: The term "Embark" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Emergency generator

Meaning: Generator supplying essential power during blackout.

Professional example: Example: The term "Emergency generator" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Enclosed space

Meaning: Space with limited access/ventilation and possible dangerous atmosphere.

Professional example: Example: The term "Enclosed space" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Enclosed space entry permit

Meaning: Permit controlling entry into dangerous spaces.

Professional example: Example: The term "Enclosed space entry permit" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

ETA

Meaning: Expected time of arrival.

Professional example: Example: The term "ETA" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Maritime Terms - Letter F

Fairway

Meaning: Navigable channel/route in port or coastal waters.

Professional example: Example: The term "Fairway" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Fathom

Meaning: Depth unit equal to six feet.

Professional example: Example: The term "Fathom" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Fender

Meaning: Protective device between ship and berth/another ship.

Professional example: Example: The term "Fender" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Fetch

Meaning: Distance over water that wind blows to create waves.

Professional example: Example: The term "Fetch" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Fire boundary

Meaning: Boundary limiting spread of fire.

Professional example: Example: The term "Fire boundary" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Fire control plan

Meaning: Plan showing firefighting equipment and arrangements.

Professional example: Example: The term "Fire control plan" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Fix

Meaning: Determined vessel position.

Professional example: Example: The term "Fix" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Flag state

Meaning: Country where ship is registered.

Professional example: Example: The term "Flag state" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Flammable range

Meaning: Concentration range where gas can ignite.

Professional example: Example: The term "Flammable range" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Flare

Meaning: Distress signaling device.

Professional example: Example: The term "Flare" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Forecastle

Meaning: Forward upper deck area.

Professional example: Example: The term "Forecastle" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Forepeak tank

Meaning: Tank in forward part of vessel.

Professional example: Example: The term "Forepeak tank" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Forward spring

Meaning: Mooring line leading aft from forward area.

Professional example: Example: The term "Forward spring" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Free surface effect

Meaning: Stability reduction caused by liquid moving in partially filled tank.

Professional example: Example: The term "Free surface effect" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Freeboard

Meaning: Distance between waterline and freeboard deck.

Professional example: Example: The term "Freeboard" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Maritime Terms - Letter G

Gangway

Meaning: Access equipment between ship and shore.

Professional example: Example: The term "Gangway" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Gangway watch

Meaning: Security/safety watch at ship access.

Professional example: Example: The term "Gangway watch" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

General alarm

Meaning: Alarm to summon crew to emergency stations.

Professional example: Example: The term "General alarm" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Give-way vessel

Meaning: Vessel required to keep clear under COLREGs.

Professional example: Example: The term "Give-way vessel" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Go/no-go area

Meaning: Area considered safe/unsafe for navigation.

Professional example: Example: The term "Go/no-go area" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Grab

Meaning: Cargo handling equipment for bulk cargo.

Professional example: Example: The term "Grab" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Great circle route

Meaning: Shortest route on the surface of the earth.

Professional example: Example: The term "Great circle route" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Grounding

Meaning: Contact of vessel with seabed.

Professional example: Example: The term "Grounding" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Gyrocompass

Meaning: Compass using gyroscopic principles to indicate true north.

Professional example: Example: The term "Gyrocompass" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Maritime Terms - Letter H

Hatch cover

Meaning: Cover closing cargo hatch openings.

Professional example: Example: The term "Hatch cover" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Head line

Meaning: Mooring line leading forward from bow.

Professional example: Example: The term "Head line" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Head-on situation

Meaning: Two power-driven vessels meeting on reciprocal or nearly reciprocal courses.

Professional example: Example: The term "Head-on situation" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Heading

Meaning: Direction the bow is pointing.

Professional example: Example: The term "Heading" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Heave up anchor

Meaning: Recover anchor.

Professional example: Example: The term "Heave up anchor" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Heaving line

Meaning: Light line used to send heavier mooring line ashore.

Professional example: Example: The term "Heaving line" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Heel

Meaning: Temporary inclination due to external force.

Professional example: Example: The term "Heel" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Helm order

Meaning: Steering command.

Professional example: Example: The term "Helm order" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Hoist

Meaning: Lift by crane or lifting gear.

Professional example: Example: The term "Hoist" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Hot work

Meaning: Work involving flames, heat or sparks.

Professional example: Example: The term "Hot work" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Hot work permit

Meaning: Permit controlling hot work hazards.

Professional example: Example: The term "Hot work permit" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Hydrostatic particulars

Meaning: Ship stability/displacement data.

Professional example: Example: The term "Hydrostatic particulars" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Maritime Terms - Letter I

Incident investigation

Meaning: Process to determine causes and corrective actions.

Professional example: Example: The term "Incident investigation" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Inclinometer

Meaning: Instrument showing angle of heel.

Professional example: Example: The term "Inclinometer" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Inert gas

Meaning: Gas used to reduce oxygen and explosion risk in tanks.

Professional example: Example: The term "Inert gas" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Initial report

Meaning: First report after incident or emergency.

Professional example: Example: The term "Initial report" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

International voyage

Meaning: Voyage between ports in different countries.

Professional example: Example: The term "International voyage" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Maritime Terms - Letter J

Jettison

Meaning: Throw cargo/equipment overboard in emergency.

Professional example: Example: The term "Jettison" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Maritime Terms - Letter K

Keel

Meaning: Main structural member along bottom of vessel.

Professional example: Example: The term "Keel" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Keel clearance

Meaning: Same as under-keel clearance.

Professional example: Example: The term "Keel clearance" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Knot

Meaning: Speed of one nautical mile per hour.

Professional example: Example: The term "Knot" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Maritime Terms - Letter L

Lateral mark

Meaning: Buoy/mark indicating port/starboard side of channel.

Professional example: Example: The term "Lateral mark" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Laycan

Meaning: Laydays/cancelling date window in chartering.

Professional example: Example: The term "Laycan" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Leeward

Meaning: Direction away from the wind.

Professional example: Example: The term "Leeward" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Leeway

Meaning: Sideways movement caused by wind.

Professional example: Example: The term "Leeway" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Lifebuoy

Meaning: Floating ring used in man-overboard emergency.

Professional example: Example: The term "Lifebuoy" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Lifejacket

Meaning: Personal flotation device.

Professional example: Example: The term "Lifejacket" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Liferaft

Meaning: Inflatable survival craft.

Professional example: Example: The term "Liferaft" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

List

Meaning: Permanent transverse inclination of the ship.

Professional example: Example: The term "List" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Load line

Meaning: Mark showing maximum permitted loading.

Professional example: Example: The term "Load line" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Local notice to mariners

Meaning: Local navigation warning/update publication.

Professional example: Example: The term "Local notice to mariners" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Log

Meaning: Speed/distance measuring device; also official record.

Professional example: Example: The term "Log" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Lookout

Meaning: Person assigned to observe visually and by hearing.

Professional example: Example: The term "Lookout" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Maritime Terms - Letter M

Magnetic bearing

Meaning: Bearing referenced to magnetic north.

Professional example: Example: The term "Magnetic bearing" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Magnetic course

Meaning: Course referenced to magnetic north.

Professional example: Example: The term "Magnetic course" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Main deck

Meaning: Principal deck of a vessel.

Professional example: Example: The term "Main deck" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Manifold

Meaning: Connection area for cargo hoses/pipes.

Professional example: Example: The term "Manifold" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Manning

Meaning: Number and qualification of crew onboard.

Professional example: Example: The term "Manning" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Marine superintendent

Meaning: Shore manager responsible for vessel operations.

Professional example: Example: The term "Marine superintendent" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

MARPOL Annex

Meaning: Part of MARPOL convention covering specific pollution type.

Professional example: Example: The term "MARPOL Annex" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Master-pilot exchange

Meaning: Information exchange between Master and Pilot before pilotage.

Professional example: Example: The term "Master-pilot exchange" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Mayday

Meaning: Distress signal used in grave/imminent danger.

Professional example: Example: The term "Mayday" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Medical evacuation

Meaning: Evacuation of injured/sick person for medical care.

Professional example: Example: The term "Medical evacuation" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Metacentric height

Meaning: Measure of initial stability.

Professional example: Example: The term "Metacentric height" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Mooring

Meaning: Securing vessel to berth/buoy with lines.

Professional example: Example: The term "Mooring" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Mooring winch

Meaning: Winch used to handle mooring lines.

Professional example: Example: The term "Mooring winch" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Muster list

Meaning: Emergency duties list for crew.

Professional example: Example: The term "Muster list" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Maritime Terms - Letter N

Nautical mile

Meaning: 1,852 meters; sea distance unit.

Professional example: Example: The term "Nautical mile" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Navigational audit

Meaning: Review of navigation practices and compliance.

Professional example: Example: The term "Navigational audit" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Navigational warning

Meaning: Information warning mariners about hazards.

Professional example: Example: The term "Navigational warning" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Not under command

Meaning: Vessel unable to maneuver as required by rules.

Professional example: Example: The term "Not under command" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Notice of readiness

Meaning: Notice that vessel is ready for cargo operations.

Professional example: Example: The term "Notice of readiness" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Maritime Terms - Letter O

Off-hire

Meaning: Period when vessel is not available under charter terms.

Professional example: Example: The term "Off-hire" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Offshore

Meaning: Away from shore; also offshore industry context.

Professional example: Example: The term "Offshore" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Oil record book

Meaning: MARPOL record for oil operations.

Professional example: Example: The term "Oil record book" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

On-scene coordinator

Meaning: Person coordinating SAR actions at incident scene.

Professional example: Example: The term "On-scene coordinator" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Open sea

Meaning: Sea area away from coast and restrictions.

Professional example: Example: The term "Open sea" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Overtaking vessel

Meaning: Vessel approaching another from abaft the beam.

Professional example: Example: The term "Overtaking vessel" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Maritime Terms - Letter P

Pan-Pan

Meaning: Urgency signal.

Professional example: Example: The term "Pan-Pan" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Parallel indexing

Meaning: Radar technique to monitor track relative to hazards.

Professional example: Example: The term "Parallel indexing" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Passage appraisal

Meaning: First stage of passage planning: information gathering.

Professional example: Example: The term "Passage appraisal" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Passage execution

Meaning: Conducting the voyage according to plan.

Professional example: Example: The term "Passage execution" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Passage monitoring

Meaning: Checking vessel progress against plan.

Professional example: Example: The term "Passage monitoring" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Passage plan

Meaning: Complete berth-to-berth navigation plan.

Professional example: Example: The term "Passage plan" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Passage planning

Meaning: Appraisal, planning, execution and monitoring of voyage.

Professional example: Example: The term "Passage planning" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Permit to work

Meaning: Formal control document for hazardous work.

Professional example: Example: The term "Permit to work" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Pilot boarding ground

Meaning: Area where pilot boards the vessel.

Professional example: Example: The term "Pilot boarding ground" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Pilot card

Meaning: Ship information card provided to pilot.

Professional example: Example: The term "Pilot card" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Pilot ladder

Meaning: Ladder rigged for pilot boarding.

Professional example: Example: The term "Pilot ladder" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Piracy watch

Meaning: Enhanced security watch in piracy risk area.

Professional example: Example: The term "Piracy watch" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Pitching

Meaning: Vessel movement up and down by bow/stern.

Professional example: Example: The term "Pitching" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Port clearance

Meaning: Permission/documents to enter/depart port.

Professional example: Example: The term "Port clearance" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Port side

Meaning: Left side when facing forward.

Professional example: Example: The term "Port side" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Port state

Meaning: Country whose port a foreign ship visits.

Professional example: Example: The term "Port state" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Port state control inspection

Meaning: Inspection by port state authority.

Professional example: Example: The term "Port state control inspection" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Position line

Meaning: Line on which vessel position lies.

Professional example: Example: The term "Position line" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions,

safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Precautionary area

Meaning: Area requiring special caution in navigation.

Professional example: Example: The term "Precautionary area" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Preventer wire

Meaning: Wire used for additional safety/backup.

Professional example: Example: The term "Preventer wire" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Propeller race

Meaning: Water stream produced by propeller.

Professional example: Example: The term "Propeller race" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Protest note

Meaning: Formal statement protecting interests after incident/delay.

Professional example: Example: The term "Protest note" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Maritime Terms - Letter Q

Quarter

Meaning: After side area of a vessel.

Professional example: Example: The term "Quarter" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Maritime Terms - Letter R

Radar conspicuous

Meaning: Clearly visible on radar.

Professional example: Example: The term "Radar conspicuous" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Range

Meaning: Distance to an object.

Professional example: Example: The term "Range" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Rate of turn

Meaning: How fast ship is turning, degrees per minute.

Professional example: Example: The term "Rate of turn" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Relative bearing

Meaning: Bearing measured relative to ship heading.

Professional example: Example: The term "Relative bearing" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Restricted area

Meaning: Area where navigation/access is limited.

Professional example: Example: The term "Restricted area" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Restricted visibility

Meaning: Condition where visibility is restricted by fog, mist, rain, snow, etc.

Professional example: Example: The term "Restricted visibility" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Rhumb line

Meaning: Line crossing meridians at constant angle.

Professional example: Example: The term "Rhumb line" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Risk assessment

Meaning: Systematic identification and control of risks.

Professional example: Example: The term "Risk assessment" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Roll

Meaning: Side-to-side movement of vessel.

Professional example: Example: The term "Roll" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Rope stopper

Meaning: Device/rope used to hold line temporarily.

Professional example: Example: The term "Rope stopper" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Route optimization

Meaning: Selecting route for safety, time, fuel or emissions.

Professional example: Example: The term "Route optimization" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Rudder angle

Meaning: Angle of rudder from midship.

Professional example: Example: The term "Rudder angle" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Maritime Terms - Letter S

Safe speed

Meaning: Speed allowing proper and effective action to avoid collision.

Professional example: Example: The term "Safe speed" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Safety contour

Meaning: ECDIS depth boundary selected for safe navigation.

Professional example: Example: The term "Safety contour" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Safety depth

Meaning: Depth value set on ECDIS to highlight danger.

Professional example: Example: The term "Safety depth" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Safety meeting

Meaning: Meeting to discuss safety issues/actions.

Professional example: Example: The term "Safety meeting" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Sailing draft

Meaning: Draft at departure/sailing.

Professional example: Example: The term "Sailing draft" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

SAR

Meaning: Search and Rescue.

Professional example: Example: The term "SAR" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

SART

Meaning: Device used to locate survival craft or persons in SAR.

Professional example: Example: The term "SART" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Sea room

Meaning: Available safe water for maneuvering.

Professional example: Example: The term "Sea room" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Seaworthiness

Meaning: Fitness of vessel to safely proceed to sea.

Professional example: Example: The term "Seaworthiness" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Security level

Meaning: ISPS security readiness level.

Professional example: Example: The term "Security level" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Set

Meaning: Direction of current effect.

Professional example: Example: The term "Set" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Shackle

Meaning: Length of anchor chain; also U-shaped connector.

Professional example: Example: The term "Shackle" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Sheer

Meaning: Longitudinal curve of ship deck.

Professional example: Example: The term "Sheer" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Ship handling

Meaning: Maneuvering the vessel.

Professional example: Example: The term "Ship handling" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Shipboard familiarization

Meaning: Training for crew to learn ship-specific systems.

Professional example: Example: The term "Shipboard familiarization" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Shipboard oil pollution emergency plan

Meaning: Plan for oil pollution response.

Professional example: Example: The term "Shipboard oil pollution emergency plan" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Shore leave

Meaning: Crew permission to go ashore.

Professional example: Example: The term "Shore leave" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Sighting

Meaning: Visual observation of object/landmark.

Professional example: Example: The term "Sighting" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Slack water

Meaning: Period with little or no tidal stream.

Professional example: Example: The term "Slack water" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Slop tank

Meaning: Tank for cargo residues/washings.

Professional example: Example: The term "Slop tank" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Sludge

Meaning: Oil residue/waste onboard.

Professional example: Example: The term "Sludge" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

SOLAS training manual

Meaning: Ship-specific safety training documentation.

Professional example: Example: The term "SOLAS training manual" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Sound signal

Meaning: Audible signal required in certain navigation situations.

Professional example: Example: The term "Sound signal" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Sounding

Meaning: Measurement of water depth or tank level.

Professional example: Example: The term "Sounding" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Special area

Meaning: Sea area with special pollution prevention rules.

Professional example: Example: The term "Special area" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Speed over ground

Meaning: Actual speed over seabed.

Professional example: Example: The term "Speed over ground" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Spring line

Meaning: Mooring line preventing fore/aft movement.

Professional example: Example: The term "Spring line" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Squat

Meaning: Increase in draft and change of trim at speed in shallow water.

Professional example: Example: The term "Squat" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Stability

Meaning: Ability of ship to return upright after heeling.

Professional example: Example: The term "Stability" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Stand-on vessel

Meaning: Vessel which should maintain course and speed under COLREGs, when applicable.

Professional example: Example: The term "Stand-on vessel" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Starboard side

Meaning: Right side when facing forward.

Professional example: Example: The term "Starboard side" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Steady bearing

Meaning: Bearing not changing, possible collision risk.

Professional example: Example: The term "Steady bearing" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Stern

Meaning: After end of the vessel.

Professional example: Example: The term "Stern" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Stern line

Meaning: Mooring line leading aft from stern.

Professional example: Example: The term "Stern line" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Stores

Meaning: Supplies carried onboard.

Professional example: Example: The term "Stores" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Stowage factor

Meaning: Volume per unit weight of cargo.

Professional example: Example: The term "Stowage factor" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Stowage plan

Meaning: Plan showing cargo stowage.

Professional example: Example: The term "Stowage plan" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Stowaway

Meaning: Person hidden onboard without permission.

Professional example: Example: The term "Stowaway" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Straddle carrier

Meaning: Port equipment for moving containers.

Professional example: Example: The term "Straddle carrier" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions,

safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Stranding

Meaning: Running aground, usually on shore/rocks.

Professional example: Example: The term "Stranding" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Survival craft

Meaning: Lifeboat or liferaft.

Professional example: Example: The term "Survival craft" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Synoptic chart

Meaning: Weather map.

Professional example: Example: The term "Synoptic chart" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Maritime Terms - Letter T

Tank cleaning

Meaning: Cleaning cargo tanks.

Professional example: Example: The term "Tank cleaning" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Tanker

Meaning: Vessel designed to carry liquid cargo in bulk.

Professional example: Example: The term "Tanker" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Terminal

Meaning: Port facility for cargo operations.

Professional example: Example: The term "Terminal" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Tidal stream

Meaning: Horizontal movement of water due to tide.

Professional example: Example: The term "Tidal stream" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Towage

Meaning: Assistance or movement by tug.

Professional example: Example: The term "Towage" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Traffic lane

Meaning: Lane in traffic separation scheme.

Professional example: Example: The term "Traffic lane" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Traffic organization

Meaning: Measures controlling flow of vessel traffic.

Professional example: Example: The term "Traffic organization" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Traffic separation scheme

Meaning: Routeing measure separating opposing traffic streams.

Professional example: Example: The term "Traffic separation scheme" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Trim

Meaning: Difference between forward and aft draft.

Professional example: Example: The term "Trim" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Tropical storm

Meaning: Severe rotating storm system.

Professional example: Example: The term "Tropical storm" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

True course

Meaning: Course referenced to true north.

Professional example: Example: The term "True course" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Tug made fast

Meaning: Tug connected to vessel.

Professional example: Example: The term "Tug made fast" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Turn circle

Meaning: Path of vessel during full turn.

Professional example: Example: The term "Turn circle" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Maritime Terms - Letter U

Unberthing

Meaning: Leaving a berth.

Professional example: Example: The term "Unberthing" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Under-keel clearance

Meaning: Clearance between keel and seabed.

Professional example: Example: The term "Under-keel clearance" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Unsafe act

Meaning: Human action increasing risk.

Professional example: Example: The term "Unsafe act" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Unsafe condition

Meaning: Hazardous condition increasing risk.

Professional example: Example: The term "Unsafe condition" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Urgency

Meaning: Situation concerning safety of ship/person requiring urgent communication.

Professional example: Example: The term "Urgency" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Maritime Terms - Letter V

Vessel constrained by draft

Meaning: Vessel restricted by draft in available depth.

Professional example: Example: The term "Vessel constrained by draft" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Vessel restricted in ability to manoeuvre

Meaning: Vessel unable to keep out of the way due to nature of work.

Professional example: Example: The term "Vessel restricted in ability to manoeuvre" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Vessel traffic service

Meaning: Shore-based service for traffic safety/efficiency.

Professional example: Example: The term "Vessel traffic service" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Voyage data recorder

Meaning: Records ship data/audio like black box.

Professional example: Example: The term "Voyage data recorder" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Voyage order

Meaning: Instructions for a voyage.

Professional example: Example: The term "Voyage order" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Maritime Terms - Letter W

Watchkeeping

Meaning: Maintaining navigational/operational watch.

Professional example: Example: The term "Watchkeeping" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Water ingress

Meaning: Entry of water into vessel.

Professional example: Example: The term "Water ingress" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Watertight door

Meaning: Door preventing water passage when closed.

Professional example: Example: The term "Watertight door" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Waypoint

Meaning: Planned position in route.

Professional example: Example: The term "Waypoint" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Weather deck

Meaning: Deck exposed to weather.

Professional example: Example: The term "Weather deck" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Wheelhouse

Meaning: Bridge/navigation space.

Professional example: Example: The term "Wheelhouse" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Winch

Meaning: Mechanical equipment for pulling/handling lines.

Professional example: Example: The term "Winch" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Windward

Meaning: Direction from which wind is coming.

Professional example: Example: The term "Windward" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Maritime Terms - Letter Y

Yaw

Meaning: Swinging of vessel head from side to side.

Professional example: Example: The term "Yaw" may appear in bridge communication, company procedures, port instructions, safety reports or maritime training.

Related context: Navigation / operations / safety / port / cargo / shipboard communication, depending on context.

Bonus Appendix C - Quick Revision Cards

Collision avoidance language

Remember these words: bearing, range, CPA, TCPA, risk of collision, give-way vessel, stand-on vessel, action to avoid collision

Practice task: Create five complete professional sentences using these words.

Bridge watch language

Remember these words: position, course, speed, traffic, visibility, waypoint, standing orders, equipment status

Practice task: Create five complete professional sentences using these words.

Port operation language

Remember these words: pilot station, tug assistance, mooring station, all fast, gangway, port clearance, berth, anchorage

Practice task: Create five complete professional sentences using these words.

Emergency language

Remember these words: fire, man overboard, grounding, collision, injury, pollution, muster, assistance required

Practice task: Create five complete professional sentences using these words.

Interview language

Remember these words: sea service, vessel type, rank, certificates, safety culture, leadership, teamwork, availability

Practice task: Create five complete professional sentences using these words.

References, Disclaimer and Safe Use Notes

Disclaimer

This handbook is a practical learning and training guide for maritime English, VHF communication and SMCP-style communication. It is not an official IMO, ITU, IALA, flag State, port authority, coast station, VTS, company SMS or approved training-provider publication.

The phrases, examples, abbreviations, scenarios and worksheets are prepared for educational practice. They are intended to support clearer communication, not to replace official regulations, company procedures, Master's standing orders, local port/VTS instructions, approved bridge procedures or onboard radio procedures.

In real operations, seafarers must follow the latest applicable official documents, flag State requirements, coastal State rules, local port/VTS procedures, company SMS, Master's instructions and the actual navigational/radio situation.

VHF channels, working channels and calling procedures may vary by country, port, VTS area, pilot station and local authority. Always check the current port guide, Notices to Mariners, VTS instructions, pilotage information, radio regulations and company procedures before use.

This handbook does not provide legal, regulatory or operational approval. The author accepts no liability for any loss, accident, misunderstanding, delay, penalty or damage resulting from the direct operational use of this training material without checking applicable official requirements.

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No part of this handbook should be treated as a reproduced official copy of IMO SMCP, ITU Radio Regulations, IALA publications, STCW, SOLAS, COLREGs or any port/VTS manual. Users should obtain and consult the latest official editions where required.

How to Use This Handbook Safely

- Use the examples for practice, role-play, interview preparation and classroom discussion.
- For operational VHF communication, use clear standard phrases, avoid unnecessary words and confirm important information by read-back where appropriate.
- Do not rely on informal words such as Roger, Copy or OK for safety-critical instructions when a clear read-back or confirmation is required.
- For port entry, pilotage, berthing, tug operations and emergency communication, follow the instructions of the relevant port authority, VTS, pilot station, MRCC or Master.
- Keep updated with current official publications and local requirements; maritime communication rules and channel arrangements may change.

References and Recommended Official Sources

The following sources are recommended for further reading, verification and official operational guidance. Users should consult the latest official edition or the relevant authority website before operational use.

Source / Organization	Document / Use
International Maritime Organization (IMO)	IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases (SMCP), Resolution A.918(22). Official overview: https://www.imo.org/en/ourwork/safety/pages/standardmarinecommunicationphrases.aspx
International Maritime Organization (IMO)	International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), especially communications and safety-related requirements relevant to ship operations.
International Maritime Organization (IMO)	International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGs), 1972, as amended.
International Maritime Organization (IMO)	International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), as amended.
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)	Radio Regulations and maritime mobile service requirements, including Appendix 18 channel arrangements and maritime operational procedures. Maritime publications: https://www.itu.int/sales/digital-publications/maritime
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)	Manual for Use by the Maritime Mobile and Maritime Mobile-Satellite Services. Publication page: https://www.itu.int/en/publications/ITU-R/Pages/publications.aspx
IALA	Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) guidance, including message markers and VTS communication principles. Message markers reference: https://www.iala.int/wiki/dictionary/index.php/Message_Markers
IALA	Guideline G1089 - Provision of a VTS and related VTS communication guidance. Official guidance library: https://www.iala.int/product-category/publications/guidelines/
USCG Navigation Center	International VHF Marine Radio Channels and Frequencies: https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/international-vhf-marine-radio-channels-freq
USCG Navigation Center	Radio watchkeeping and VHF radio information for practical reference: https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/radio-information-for-boaters
Local Port Authority / VTS / Pilot	Port information guides, port entry procedures, pilot boarding instructions, VHF working

Station	channels, reporting points and local notices.
Company Safety Management System (SMS)	Bridge procedures, radio communication procedures, Master's standing orders, emergency procedures and navigational instructions.

Suggested Professional Practice

- Carry the latest official radio and bridge communication references required by the vessel, flag State and company.
- When uncertain, use plain, clear English and SMCP-style wording instead of slang or informal expressions.
- For safety-critical information, repeat back the key parts: vessel name, position, instruction, channel, time, course, speed, berth, pilot boarding time, tug instruction or emergency detail.
- Keep a record of important VHF exchanges according to company and bridge procedures.

End of Handbook