



MIDDLE EAST NAVIGATION AIDS SERVICE NOTICE TO MARINERS

NOTICE TO MARINERS

NTM: 01/2012

ISSUE DATE: 01 JAN 2012

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF NAVIGATIONAL INFORMATION PROMULGATED BY MENAS

There are two main methods of distributing the information that is passed to MENAS:

- 1) MENAS Notices to Mariners
- 2) NAVTEX transmitted via Bahrain Radio (A9M)

1) MENAS Notices to Mariners

MENAS Notices to Mariners promulgate all navigational information of a permanent or semi-permanent nature received from Governmental Nautical Authorities, Ports and Harbour Authorities, Oil Companies and others engaged in off-shore operations, Ships' Masters and other sources. Each Notice is sequentially numbered and:

- a. specifies the original source of the information and refers to the British Admiralty Chart(s) affected by the Notice.
- b. remains in force until specifically cancelled by a later Notice in the same series or is:
 - i. superseded by an Admiralty Notices to Mariners, or
 - ii. no longer valid
 - iii. considered to have been sufficiently promulgated

MENAS also promulgate a Monthly Summary of Notices to Mariners that contain the following information:

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|-------------|--|
| Section I | : Summary of Current Notices to Mariners |
| Section II | : New Notices since last issue |
| Section III | : Cancelled Notices since last issue |
| Section IV | : Mobile Oil Rig Positions |
| Section V | : New Publications |
| Section VI | : NAVTEX in force |

2) NAVTEX

MENAS as the Acting Sub-Area Co-ordinator for NAVAREA IX (the Gulf and its Approaches) operates a NAVTEX service within the framework of the WWNWS system established jointly by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

NAVTEX is an international automated direct-printing service for promulgating navigational and meteorological warnings and urgent information to ships, and fulfills an integral role in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) developed by the IMO.

Broadcast every four hours at 0010, 0410, 0810, 1210, 1610 and 2010 UTC on 518 kHz. The World Authority agreed the International NAVTEX frequency of 518 KHz on Radio Communication (WARC) in Geneva in 1983. They are sequentially numbered annually, with the Prefix B designated for Bahrain. NAVTEX message types are:

- (A) Navigation Warning.
- (B) Marine Bulletin - broadcast at 0410 & 1610 UTC daily.

The information broadcast on NAVTEX is updated by either self-cancelling or supersession of a new warning with any permanent or semi-permanent warning being subsequently published as a MENAS Notice to Mariners.

Since 1 August 1993, all ships of 300 GRT and above are required to carry a receiver capable of receiving international NAVTEX messages in areas where these are provided.

Mariners are requested to inform the Middle East Navigation Aids Service, P. O. Box 66, Manama, Bahrain immediately on the discovery of new dangers, or suspected dangers to navigation and changes or defects in aids to navigation noticed in Sub-Navarea IX - Gulf and its Approaches.

MENAS is an ISO 9001:2008 Certified Service

All MENAS service users are requested to pass on valid navigational hazard information to the MENAS MARITIME OPERATIONS CENTRE in Bahrain using communications methods:

Tel: ++973 17828541 Fax: ++973 17727765 Email info@menas.com.bh

MENAS is committed to maritime safety in the region and MENAS support the standards of marine operations recommended by IMCA, the International Marine Contractors Association.

As part of our process of continual improvement of services to the maritime community, we are continually amending / updating our mailing lists. Please reply to this mail address should you require any additional email addresses added to the direct NAVTEX and/or Gulf Notices to Mariners circulation lists.

Please also find latest navigational situation information at menas.org Users are requested to provide suggestions for Service enhancements, navigational hazard feedback and complaints through www.menas.org

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