



**The Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway System**  
*Le réseau Grands Lacs - Voie maritime du Saint-Laurent*

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**2017 - NOTICE TO SHIPPING #9**

**NIAGARA REGION  
WELLAND CANAL**

**OPERATION OF BRIDGES 4, 5, 11 & 21**

Mariners are reminded of item 5 of the 'Ship Transit & Equipment Requirements' section of the Seaway Handbook. This item refers to 'Bridges – Signal Light System' (page 3). The operation of the system is as follows:

1. When the ship's stem arrives at the **WHISTLE** sign, the **AMBER** lights on the **CAUTION** sign start to flash. This acknowledges that the Operations Control Centre has seen the ship and will commence the bridge raising operation. The Master shall signal the operations controller if he does not receive a **FLASHING AMBER** by the time the vessel's stem is at the whistle sign.

**NOTE:** At this time, the **RED BRIDGE NAVIGATION** light will be displayed on the bridge span.

2. After the Bridge Operator acknowledges the presence of the ship at the **WHISTLE** sign, he will commence the bridge raising operation. When the bridge starts to rise, the **RED BRIDGE NAVIGATION** lights will commence flashing.
3. When the vessel's stem is abeam of the **CAUTION** sign and the **GREEN BRIDGE NAVIGATION** lights are displayed, the vessel is allowed to proceed through the bridge draw. If, however, the **GREEN BRIDGE NAVIGATION** lights are not displayed at the time the stem of the vessel is abeam of the **CAUTION** sign, the master should take any action necessary to ensure that the vessel does not pass the **L/A** sign before the bridge span is fully raised and the **GREEN BRIDGE NAVIGATION** lights are displayed.

**NOTE:** Under normal conditions the bridge span should be fully raised and displaying a **GREEN NAVIGATION** light by the time the vessel reaches the **CAUTION** sign.

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