



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

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## SEAWAY NOTICE NO. 3 – 2020

### COMMUNICATIONS

Mariners are reminded that the following communications procedures will be in effect at the structures:

#### AT LOCKS

Lock crews' initial communication with vessel will occur when vessel is at the inbound L/A

#### Positioning Instructions

**Vessel to verbally acknowledge at minimum the following 3 positioning instructions (whether given by Lock personnel or vessel self-spotting radio):**

- Initial communication (for final mooring position)
- 25 m spotting instruction
- Final spotting instruction (In position)

At U.S. Seaway locks for downbound maximum sized vessels required to winch to final mooring position the following additional communications must be acknowledged:

- The message "25 m to the 15 m mark"
- "10 m to the 15 m mark"
- "5 m to the 15 m mark"
- "3 m to the 15 m mark"
- "1 m to the 15 m mark"
- The message "In position at the 15 m mark"
- When the vessel has winched into position, the message "In position"

#### Hands-Free Mooring (HFM) Instructions

**The following communication protocol will be followed during a lockage when HFM equipment is in use:**

- On initial communication, lock operator will advise vessel that HFM will be used.
- At Final Mooring Position and stopped, lock operator will advise vessel that pads will be attached & vessel is not to use its engine(s):
  - **Verbal acknowledgement from vessel is required;**
  - **Pads will only be attached to vessel once confirmation from vessel is received.**



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- Lock operator will advise vessel once pads are attached & lockage to begin.
- Once lockage is complete, lock operator will advise vessel that pads will be detached:
  - o **Verbal acknowledgement from vessel is required;**
  - o **Pads will not be detached from vessel until confirmation from vessel is received.**
- Once pads are detached, lock operator will advise vessel to exit lock.

**AT BRIDGES (remote from locks)**

The following procedure applies at all free-standing Bridges, namely:

- Br. 7A/7B, SLU, VAL in the Montreal Lake Ontario Section
- Br. 4, 5, 11 and 21 in the Welland Canal Section

The bridge operator will make a VHF radio call on the normal working channel to the last vessel through the bridge draw, immediately prior to initiating the bridge lowering / closing sequence. e.g. "VESSEL NAME, BRIDGE 21 WILL START TO LOWER". Vessel may respond if there is a problem.

Note: Please note that calls (phone or radio) may be recorded for quality assurance and training purposes.

March 17, 2020