

**Transport Agency provisions
and general guidelines for
maritime traffic on the Göta
Canal**

TSFS 2019:140

Printed on
December 18, 2019

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Ratified on December 9, 2019.

The Transport Agency provides the following in accordance with Ch. 2 1 § of the Swedish Maritime Traffic Regulation (1986:300) and 2 § of the Regulation on Traffic on the Göta Canal (1983:744), and ratifies the following general guidelines.

General

Purpose

1 § The aim of these provisions is to enable both access to and safe maritime traffic on the Göta Canal.

Scope

2 § These provisions apply to maritime traffic on the Göta Canal, which includes the following fairways

1. From Mem at Slätbaken to Motala at Lake Vättern (the Östergötland Section), and
2. From Karlsborg at Lake Vättern to Sjötorp at Lake Vänern (the Västergötland Section).

Definitions

3 § The following terms are defined in these provisions:

<i>AIS</i>	Automatic Identification System, enabling the identification and tracking of a vessel from other vessels and land-based monitoring facilities.
<i>Sign for lock or bridge ahead</i>	White, diagonal sign, notifying mariners that the next lock or bridge lies approx. 300 metres ahead.
<i>Towing</i>	Transportation by towing, where the towing party is a vessel or other displacing entity and the towed party is not equipped with, or not presently capable of using its own propulsion.

<i>Ship</i>	Water vessel used for commercial transport of goods and/or passengers, or for State business.
<i>Speed Over Ground</i>	Speed relative to the water floor.
<i>Passage pole</i>	Red-and-white pole placed ahead of a lock or bridge.
<i>Pleasure craft</i>	Water vessel used only for pleasure traffic.
<i>Canal proprietor</i>	The entity responsible for the fairways, locks and dam facilities of a canal; AB Göta kanalbolag (the Canal Company) is the proprietor of the Göta Canal.
<i>Canal official</i>	Managing Director, Site Manager, Operations Manager, canal specialist, canal technician or lock keeper, employed by the canal proprietor.
<i>Overall length</i>	The overall length of a ship or pleasure craft, between the outermost points of the stem and stern, thus also including for instance, figureheads, bowsprits, booms, swimming platforms, davits and pulpits, as well as other non-fixed constructions. Also included in the overall length is any other accompanying craft, or craft being towed.
<i>Maritime safety device (MSD)</i>	Device defined in the Swedish Transport Agency Provisions and General Guidelines (TSFS 2017:66) regarding the posting of maritime safety devices, established for the purpose of facilitating navigation.
<i>Maritime fairway sign</i>	Sign defined in the Swedish Transport Agency Provisions and General Guidelines (TSFS 2019:12) regarding the posting of maritime fairway signs, i.e., signs providing information about maritime traffic regulations or other information to mariners.
<i>SMS</i>	Short Message Service is a service for short text messages, sent between mobile phones or between a computer and a mobile phone.
<i>NtM</i>	Nautical publications provided by the Swedish Maritime Administration, containing information for commercial and pleasure mariners (Notices to Mariners).

VHF Maritime radio for communication in the 156-174 Mhz frequency range, between vessels as well as between vessels and land-based stations.

WGS84 World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS84) is a global, geodetic reference system, utilised by the satellite based positioning system NAVSTAR Global Positioning System (GPS).

Maximum vessel size

4 § A ship or pleasure craft must not be brought into the canal if its overall length exceeds 30 metres, if its height above the surface exceeds 22 metres, if its width exceeds 7 metres, or if its draught exceeds 2.82 metres. Such vessels may however, enter the canal, provided that they have been approved by the canal proprietor in each individual case.

5 § The canal proprietor has the right to impose a temporary limit on the maximum permitted draught. Information about such a decision must be published by the canal proprietor, in a suitable location.

Notification duty

6 § Ships or pleasure craft exceeding 24 metres are required to notify the canal proprietor before entering the canal.

General guidelines

The vessel commander is advised to have proof of measurements, proof of licensing, regulatory inspection records and proof of insurance, available to the canal official when providing notification.

Signposting

MSD

7 § The canal proprietor must provide signposting in connection to the fairway, locks, bridges and harbours. The type and number of signs posted must be appropriate for current maritime traffic, see appendix 1.

General guidelines

Information about the posting of MSDs can be found in the official Göta Canal navigational chart, provided by the Swedish Maritime Administration.

The canal proprietor will inform mariners, through the Swedish Maritime Administration, about temporary removals of MSDs. The information can be found in NtM publications and elsewhere.

The canal proprietor will inform mariners, through the Swedish Maritime Administration, about the reinstating of temporarily removed MSDs. The information can be found in NtM publications and elsewhere.

Passage pole

8 § Ships and pleasure craft must neither pass a passage pole adjacent to a lock or bridge, nor moor between a passage pole and a lock or bridge, before ongoing service has finished and a canal official has given the go-ahead for passage.

Bridge signals

9 § Bridge signals and other signals must be followed. Commands from canal officials to mariners take priority over defined light and sound signals.

General maritime provisions for the canal

Orders

10 § Ships and pleasure craft must follow orders given by the canal proprietor, that are justified in order to protect locks, bridges and other facilities, as well as to ensure accessibility to and safety of the canal.

General guidelines

Fishing adjacent to bridges and locking facilities, which may affect passage, should be avoided.

11 § Ships and pleasure craft must follow the safety orders of the canal proprietor when locking and passing bridges, and also stay up to date with information provided by the canal proprietor about maritime traffic on the canal.

General guidelines

Ships and pleasure craft with a length exceeding 15 metres should be equipped with AIS and VHF, and always monitor VHF channel 16 (10) whilst travelling on the Göta Canal. Additionally, ships and pleasure craft should ensure cellular service, in order to be able to receive traffic information from the canal proprietor via an SMS service.

Incidents

12 § Ships and pleasure craft must report incidents to the canal proprietor in an appropriate fashion, if the vessel loses its ability to steer, runs aground, sinks or collides with a vessel or other item on the fairway.

General guidelines

An incident report to the canal proprietor should contain the following information:

- 1. Time of incident.*
 - 2. Name of vessel.*
 - 3. Callsign/identification sign.*
 - 4. Mobile phone number.*
 - 5. Position.*
 - 6. Number of people on board.*
 - 7. Type of event.*
 - 8. Need for assistance.*
 - 9. Insurance company.*
 - 10. Additional information.*
- Load and list**

13 § Load or fixed devices on the vessel must not protrude from the side of a ship or pleasure craft. Ships and pleasure craft with a length exceeding 15 metres should avoid listing whilst travelling and during locking. Exceptions may be granted by canal officials.

Excavated and blasted sections of the canal

14 § Ships and pleasure craft must not sail, anchor or moor on an excavated or blasted section of the canal. Ships and pleasure craft may however moor at jetties or harbours in blasted and excavated sections of the canal.

General guidelines

Ships and pleasure craft moored at quays on the canal should, in darkness and sight-limiting conditions, have suitable glare-free lighting, so as to be visible to other passing vessels.

15 § Ships and pleasure craft may not exceed a speed of 5 knots over ground on the blasted and excavated sections of the canal.

16 § Ships and pleasure craft must always be operated at safe speeds, i.e. a speed at which they can avoid collisions and be brought to a standstill at a distance appropriate to the current situation.

General conditions

In sight-limiting conditions, ships and pleasure craft should be operated at a reduced speed. If required by the situation, and possible without jeopardising safety, vessels should be anchored on the side of the fairway, or moored.

Priority and sound signals

17 § Ships and pleasure craft must follow orders given by canal officials. Additionally, ships carrying more than 12 passengers, commercially, have priority over other vessels.

18 § Pleasure craft must give way to all other types of vessels whilst passing excavated and blasted sections of the canal.

19 § On the Västergötland section, at Billströmmen and on the Spetsnäs Canal, ships going east and carrying more than 12 passengers, commercially, have priority over other vessels, see appendix 2.

Ships must use the following sound signals:

	Going east	Going west
Prior to entering the Spetsnäs Canal	- (LONG) N 58-34.775 E 14-24.385	--- (3 x LONG) N 58-34.730 E 14-24.820
Prior to entering Billströmmen	-. (2 x LONG + SHORT) N 58-34.585 E 14-25.245	-- (2 x LONG) N 58-34.680 E 14-25.600

General guidelines

Ships and pleasure craft with a length exceeding 15 metres should notify other vessels through a general call on VHF channel 16 (10) prior to entering the Spetsnäs Canal and Billströmmen. Additionally, the sound signals above should be used.

Meeting and overtaking

20 § Meeting and overtaking may only be carried out if the sight distance, fairway space, water current conditions and other conditions allow for this to be carried out in a safe manner.

General guidelines

On the Berg Canal, on the Västergötland section between Lanthöjden (N 58-37.710 / E 14-10.350 WGS84) and Tåtorp (N 58-36.610 / E 14-11.445 WGS84) meetings between ships and pleasure craft should only be carried out at one of the nine designated meeting locations. The meeting locations are marked by maritime fairway signs on the northern and eastern canal banks.

Ships and pleasure craft with a length exceeding 15 metres should notify other vessels through a general call on VHF channel 16 (10) prior to entering the Berg Canal.

21 § Ships and pleasure craft must not overtake other ships or pleasure craft on the excavated and blasted sections of the canal, unless the vessel being overtaken has consented to the overtaking.

Turning

22 § Ships and pleasure craft may only turn in locations where width and depth conditions are appropriate for the manoeuvre. Vessels may turn on the condition that there is sufficient manoeuvring room, with respect to other maritime traffic at the particular location.

General guidelines

Ships and pleasure craft should turn at the lowest possible speed. Additionally, ships with a length exceeding 15 metres should issue a general call to other vessels on VHF channel 16 (10) before they commence turning.

Mooring

23 § Ships and pleasure craft must use the mooring sites on the fairway, provided by the canal proprietor for the purpose of embarking and disembarking passengers, as well as for loading and unloading cargo.

Towing

24 § A pleasure craft may tow no more than two other pleasure craft. Any other type of towing requires permission from the canal proprietor.

Swimming

25 § Swimming on the fairway is prohibited adjacent to bridges and locking facilities.

Exceptions

26 § The Swedish Transport Agency may, if specific reasons so require, grant exceptions to these provisions. An exception may be accompanied by specific conditions.

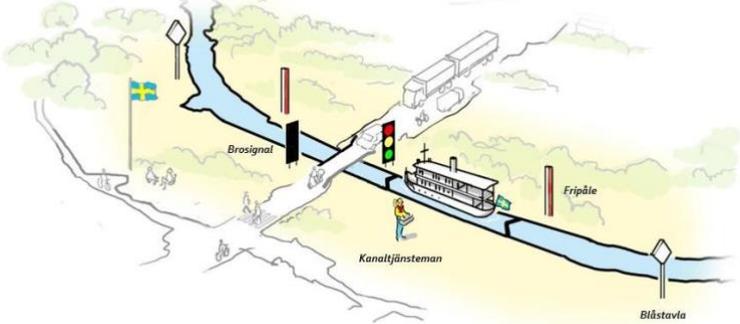
These provisions will come into force on March 1, 2020.

On behalf of the Swedish Transport Agency

JONAS BJELFVENSTAM

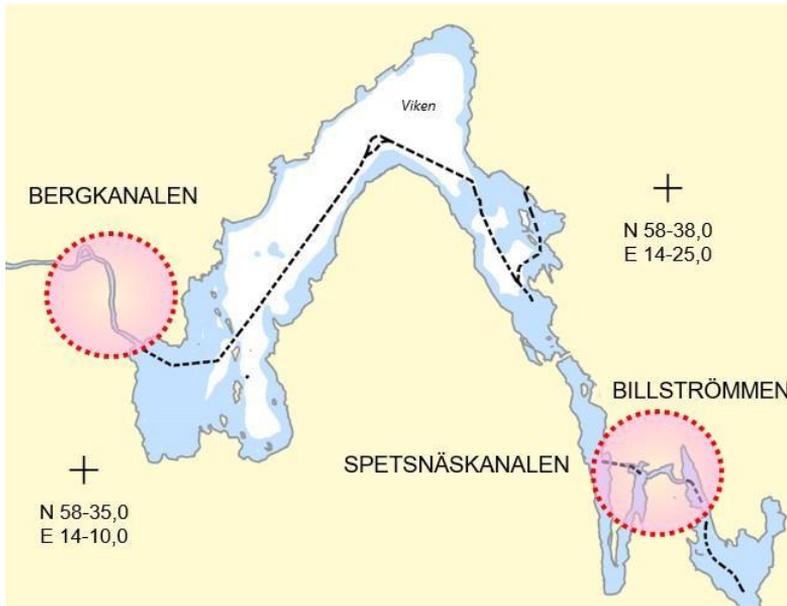
Mats Hörström
(Shipping and Aviation)

Appendix 1. Markings

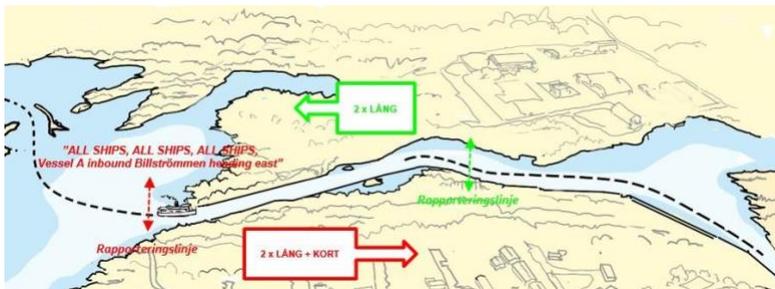


Appendix 2

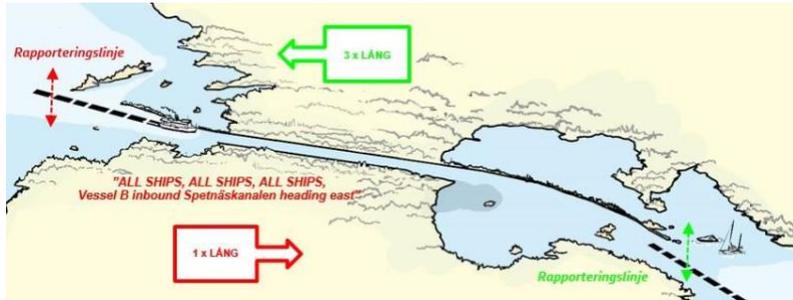
2.1 Overview



2.2 Billströmmen



2.3 The Spetsnäs Canal



2.4 The Berg Canal

