



MARITIME SAFETY/SECURITY
INFORMATION BULLETIN
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Coast Guard Marine Safety Office San Francisco Bay
Department of Homeland Security

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA REVISED DOCK ADDRESS SYSTEM

On March 31, 2005 Vessel Traffic Service San Francisco (VTS) will implement a new system of dock addresses to refer to dock locations throughout the San Francisco Bay Region. This new system was developed by the Navigation Working Group of the San Francisco Bay Region Harbor Safety Committee with representation from all facets of the Maritime Industry, and addresses the problem of frequently changing dock names due to changes in ownership. Because San Francisco, Oakland and Redwood City all have intuitive and easy to use dock naming conventions, they were used as the pattern for this new system.

Implementation of this system will significantly enhance the safety of vessels operating on San Francisco Bay by reducing confusion regarding each vessel's destination. In addition, this new system offers benefits to maritime security, including the increased ability for emergency responders to quickly identify exact dock locations during a critical maritime incident.

This new system identifies each dock with a permanent name and number; it also provides a succinct destination code for each vessel's Automatic Identification System (AIS), enhancing VTS's use of the new system over the radio. For example, the Amorco pier will now be referred to as "Martinez 5", and Oakland Berth 57 will be referred to as "Oakland 57"; and the AIS Destination Field will read as, ">US MRZ5" and ">US OAK 57", respectively.

For a graphic representation of the new system and a complete list of the new system names and codes, go to the VTS website, www.uscg.mil/D11/vtssf/, and click on "Automatic Information System" or "New AIS Destination Codes". Additional questions may be directed to the SF Marine Exchange at (415) 411-6600 or the Vessel Traffic Service at (415) 556-2760.

Please join me, the San Francisco Marine Exchange, the SF Bar Pilots, and the San Francisco Bay Region Harbor Safety Committee in supporting the use of this new system.

Sincerely,

GERALD M. SWANSON
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard

Captain of the Port / Federal Maritime Security Coordinator