

MarEng Radio Communication – Unit 1

OTHER IMPORTANT EXPRESSIONS

In ordinary English we use expressions like:
The fairway is 23 metres **deep**. The mast is 9 metres **high**.

In radio communication we use the following expressions:
First a noun denoting quantity or unit of measurement **and after that the numbers**.

For example:

Depth *Fairway depth is: 6m. (six metres)*

Distance *Distance to scene of accident is 120 [one-two-zero] miles. (120 nautical miles)*

Draught *My draught forward is: 7.2 [seven decimal two] metres.
(7.2m)*

Height *Height of seas in the area is three metres... (3m)*

Speed *My speed is 15 [one-five] knots. (15 knots)*

Temperature *Temperature is 23 [two-three] degrees Celsius. (23°)*

Tonnage DWT/deadweight tonnes
NRT/net tonnes
GRT/gross tonnes

*My tonnage is 30,000 [three-zero-thousand] gross tonnes.
(30,000 tonnes)*

VHF frequency

Ohima Maru, this is Bravery. Change to VHF channel 72 [seven-two]. Over. (VHF 72)

Visibility to one mile

*Visibility at Helsinki Lighthouse is 500 [five-zero-zero] metres.
(500m)*

Visibility over one mile

Visibility is 1.5 [one-decimal-five] miles. (1.5 nautical miles)

Weight kilograms/kilograms
tonnes/metric tonnes

Wind speed

*Wind is Force 10 [one-zero]. (Indicating the Beaufort scale)
Wind is 23m/s [two-three metres per second].
Wind is 18 [one-eight] knots.*

DATE AND TIME

Time UTC/universal time coordinated
local time

Time is given in UTC at sea, before entry to a port, harbour or other terminal facility.
Time is given as local time inside a port, harbour or other terminal facility.

Time: 1500 [one-five-zero-zero] UTC.

Notice how coast radio stations give date and time at the end of messages:

Pan-Pan Pan-Pan Pan-Pan.

This is Scheveningen Radio, Scheveningen Radio, Scheveningen Radio.

Following received from DIANA 5 call sign PDQE.

Message reads: Engine troubler in position 3 miles north of Northhinder lightvessel... Need immediate tug assistance.

Date and time: 010138 UTC Scheveningen Radio.

01 = date: first day of the month

0138 = time: one thirty eight a.m. (in the morning)