The Egyptian Authority for Maritime Safety (EMSA)

Operating Sector

Ref. 220

Date:15/10/2026

To: Rear Admiral / Hussein Mostafa El-Geziry

Head of the Maritime Transport and Logistics Sector

Good days,

Within the framework of mutual cooperation between the Maritime Transport Sector, the Ministry of Transport, and the Egyptian Authority for Maritime Safety, and further to the letter of the Head of the Central Administration, and the letter of the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Defense No. 1/48953 dated 3 January 2026, regarding the recommendations of the 57th Conference of Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) Groups, held on Wednesday, 23 September 2026, we would like to inform you:

1. Recommendations of the Conference:

A. The recommendations of the aforementioned conference included a requirement for the Egyptian Authority for Maritime Safety to address the Maritime Transport Sector regarding the obligation of shipping agencies/owners to inform vessels to comply with notification requirements at VTS stations, in accordance to navigational guidance previously published internationally.

B. The Vessel Traffic Monitoring Authority stated that the relevant parties had previously been officially notified, under Notice to Mariners No. 26, issued in 2006, of the requirement for vessels to maintain communication and follow the applicable navigational procedures while transiting the Gulf of Suez.

C. Article 7 of Chapter Three of the draft regulations governing the Vessel Traffic Services in the Gulf of Suez and the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba provides that:

“Vessels subject to the provisions of these Regulations, while present in or transiting through the area of responsibility of the Vessel Traffic Services stations, shall comply with the rules, regulations and navigational signals issued by the competent authority and stipulated in the Navigational Regulations for the Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea, including any amendments thereto, without prejudice to the applicable international conventions and regulations. The owners and operators of such vessels shall ensure that the relevant regulations and documents are available on board while the vessels are present in or transiting through any maritime area falling within the area of responsibility of the VTS stations.”

2. **Position of the Egyptian Authority for Maritime Safety**

The Authority kindly requests that you take whatever action you deem appropriate regarding notifying the shipping agencies / ship-owning companies of the requirement for vessels to call at the Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) stations in the Gulf of Suez, in accordance with:

* The Navigational Regulations for Navigation in the Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea; and

* The Regulations governing the Vessel Traffic Services in the Gulf of Suez and the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba, as referred to above.

Please be guided accordingly.

Rear Admiral / Dr. Ashraf Nabil El-Assal

Head of the Central Administration for …

Egyptian Authority for Maritime Safety

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT
Maritime Transport and Logistics Sector
President's Office

Ref. No.: 420
Date: 19 October 2026

Subject: Calling at Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) Stations

Mr. Mohamed Stilehi
Vice Chairman of the Transport and Communications Committee,
House of Representatives
Chairman of the Board of Directors, Alexandria Chamber of Shipping
President of the Arab Federation of Chambers of Shipping

Dear Sir,

The Maritime Transport and Logistics Sector presents its compliments and would like to refer to the Egyptian Authority for Maritime Safety letter No. 220 dated 15 October 2026, concerning the letter of the Major General / Secretary-General of the Ministry of Defense No. 1/49853 dated 2 September 2024, regarding the recommendations of the 57th Conference – Vessel Traffic Monitoring Authority matters, held on Wednesday, 23 September 2026.

The following recommendations were included:

1. The Egyptian Authority for Maritime Safety shall address the Maritime Transport Sector regarding the requirement for shipping agents and ship-owning companies to ensure that their vessels call at Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) stations, in accordance with the applicable navigational regulations previously promulgated internationally.

2. The Vessel Traffic Monitoring Authority stated that the relevant parties had previously been officially notified, under Notice to Mariners No. 26, issued in 2006, of the requirement for vessels to maintain communication and follow the applicable navigational procedures while transiting the Gulf of Suez.

3. Article 7 of Chapter Three of the draft regulations governing the Vessel Traffic Services in the Gulf of Suez and the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba provides that:

"Vessels subject to the provisions of these Regulations, while present in or transiting through the area of responsibility of the Vessel Traffic Services stations, shall comply with the rules, regulations and navigational signals issued by the competent authority and stipulated in the Navigational Regulations for the Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea, including any amendments thereto, without prejudice to the applicable international conventions and regulations. The owners and operators of such vessels shall ensure that the relevant regulations and documents are available on board while the vessels are present in or transiting through any maritime area falling within the area of responsibility of the VTS stations."

Accordingly, you are kindly requested to direct the members of your esteemed Chamber to ensure that vessels represented by their respective shipping agencies call at the Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) stations in the Gulf of Suez, in accordance with the Navigational Regulations for Navigation in the Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea and the Regulations governing the Vessel Traffic Services in the Gulf of Suez and the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba, as referred to above.

This letter is forwarded for your kind information and necessary action.

Hussein Mostafa El-Gezawy
Head of the Maritime Transport and Logistics Sector

Cc: Rear Admiral: Ashraf …
Mr. Ahmed Heikal – Specialist