

The English language is to be used in all communications. The [International Maritime Organisation's Standard Marine Communication Phrases \(SMCP\)](#) will be used.

These are the International Marine VHF Channels as used by the VTS in Malta:

- Unless otherwise instructed, vessels are to use VHF Channel 16 for Distress and Safety Calling.
- Ship-to-ship communication is to be made on VHF Channels other than those used by VTS.
- Where possible, vessels should use “low power” (1 watt) to reduce the range of the signal so as to prevent the channel being cluttered.

**Procedure:**

Vessels calling to receive a service within territorial waters but outside port shall call Valletta VTS for instructions. Unless otherwise instructed by Valletta VTS, vessels approaching Valletta Grand Harbour shall enter or leave between the following coordinates:

Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)
35° 57'.180	014° 32'.352
35° 54'.477	014° 35'.050

Unless otherwise instructed by Marsaxlokk VTS, vessels approaching the port of Marsaxlokk shall enter and leave between the following coordinates:

Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)
35° 47'.987	014° 36'.777
35° 45'.064	014° 33'.662

VHF Channel	Purpose of Communication
Channel 09	Pilotage, Mooring and Pilot Launch (pilots do not keep a listening watch on this channel unless it is being used as a working channel)
Channel 10	Mġarr Local Port Service (LPS) (primary basis)
Channel 10	Towage (secondary basis)
Channel 11	Navigational Warnings & Weather Broadcasts
Channel 12	Valletta VTS
Channel 13	Terminals and Marinas
Channel 14	Marsaxlokk VTS
Channel 20	Navigational Assistance, Special instructions to a specific ship during Onshore Power Supply Operations & Management
Channel 22	Emergency Operations & Oil Pollution Response
Channel 68	Towage
Channel 69	Malta VTS (Coastal station)
Channel 74	Towage

Channel 70 is exclusively for DSC calling for safety and emergency and must not be used for other purposes.

These channels correspond to the international maritime mobile frequencies in the VHF band, as defined in the [General Authorisations \(Radiocommunications Apparatus\) Regulations \(S.L. 399.40\)](#).