



**PORT OF MILFORD HAVEN
NOTICE TO MARINERS**



Notice to Mariners No.42 of 2017 - CERS 3 (Consolidated European Reporting System)

Summary

The CERS system is how the UK meets its reporting obligations under the European Legislation for The Vessel Traffic Monitoring Directive.

CERS 3 will come into force on the 1st April 2017 at which time all reporting vessels will be required to complete an accurate CERS Workbook prior to arrival and departure from UK Ports. Completed workbooks are to be forwarded at least 24 hours prior to arrival or as soon as possible to the port, likewise for departure.

All commercial vessels over 300 GRT as well as Recreational, Traditional or Fishing Vessels of 45 metres or over must participate. UK Warships and other government vessels as well as EEC Warships are exempt.

Background Overview

The Vessel Traffic Monitoring Directive (VTMD) requires vessels destined to UK Ports to send vessel traffic information prior to entering UK ports to the port of destination. The UK Port will then forward the information onward to SafeSeaNet (SSN), the central European data system run by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). The UK meets its reporting obligations under this European legislation by using The Consolidated European Reporting System (CERS).

The CERS system was originally created in 2006 in order to ensure the UK met its reporting obligations under this European legislation. However other information, such as Waste and Security, was being reported under different legislation, via different methods. In 2010 the Reporting Obligations Directive brought all the various reporting requirements together, so that, moving forwards, they were all required to be reported electronically and sent onward to SSN. The MCA has now developed version 3 of CERS to handle these new requirements (known as CERS3).

CERS is not new but the requirement to use CERS 3 will come into force on April 1, 2017 and will from that date be the only acceptable means of reporting ship, cargo, security and waste information.

Requirements by Masters

There are several obligatory reporting requirements that must be fulfilled by Masters when arriving, and in the case of vessels carrying dangerous cargoes also on departure from UK ports. MIN 540, MGN 438, MSN 1831 in conjunction with Statutory Instrument (SI) 2004/2110 (as amended) and (SI) 2003/1809 as well as the DGHA Regulations 2016 currently explains the process for collecting information to meet reporting obligations for ships arriving in and / or departing from ports.

The CERS workbook is a collection of various forms (FAL 1-7) that are required under UK and European Law to be submitted by all commercial vessels over 300 GRT, Recreational, Traditional or Fishing Vessels 45 metres in length and over.

The CERS Workbook

The CERS Workbook has been designed in the form of an Excel Spreadsheet. This workbook contains tabs for input of all the necessary information to go into CERS and will replace all the existing forms used for inputting this information. The benefits of this are;

- A Single XL Spreadsheet with tabs for each reporting element means that all voyage information is contained in the same place
- Completion of vessel and voyage information copies across to other tabs, to avoid double inputting of the basic information

- Security, Waste, and Dangerous Goods information, is submitted to PFSOs, Terminal Managers, and Port Authorities all in one e-mail transaction
- The Workbook can be retained and amended for submission to next port of call, avoiding the production of an entirely new document

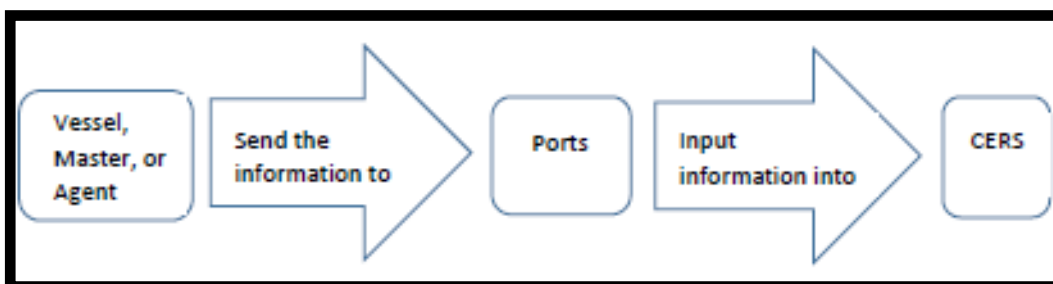


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Whenever a vessel enters a UK port it should complete the relevant parts of the CERS Workbook and submit it to the Port Authority for upload into CERS so the UK can fulfil its reporting obligations. It is vital that all relevant tabs are completed prior to each arrival and departure from the port.

Failure to submit a completed CERS Workbook prior to arrival and departure could result in transit delays for the vessel.



The reporting requirements apply to all vessels over 300GT arriving to and sailing from a UK port. It also applies to fishing vessels, traditional ships and recreational craft with a length of 45 metres or more.

Current information and guidance can be found at;
MCA notes – MIN540, MGN 438, MSN 1831
HSE - Dangerous Goods in Harbour Areas Regulations 2016

A guide to CERS 3 can be found by following the link;
http://d80a69bd923ff4dc0677-b849429a75dd6216be63404a232a877c.r8.cf3.rackcdn.com/A_guide_to_the_new_CERS3_reporting_process.pdf

Copies of the current workbook can be found at;
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-cers-workbook>



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