

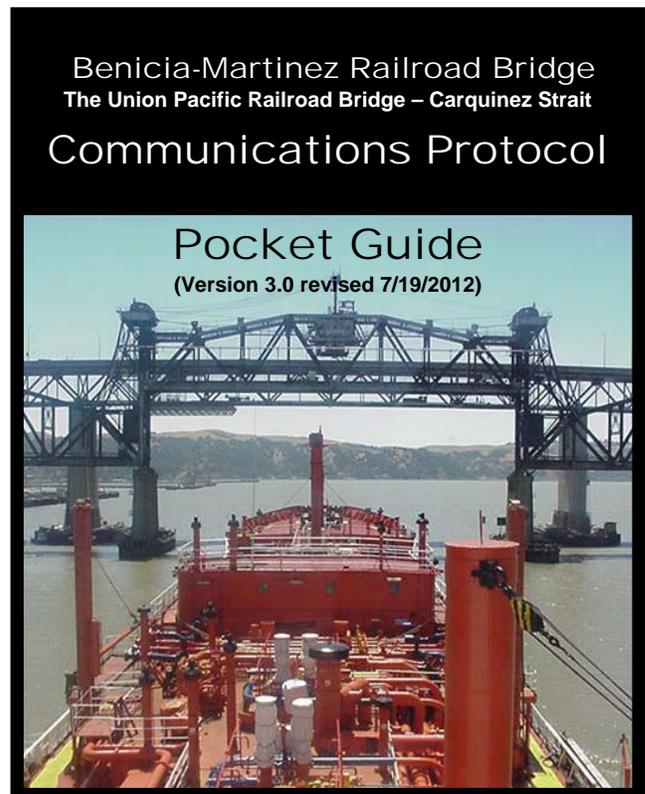
Benicia-Martinez Railroad Bridge
The Union Pacific Railroad Bridge
Communications Protocol
Pocket Guide

Version 3.0
(Revised 7/19/2012)

For more information contact:

F. Scott Humphrey
USCG Sector San Francisco
Vessel Traffic Service
1 Yerba Buena Road
Yerba Buena Island
San Francisco, CA 94130

Phone: +1-415-399-7444
E-mail: scott.humphrey@uscg.mil



When to call the UP Railroad Bridge

Vessel is...	Call the UP Railroad Bridge...
Eastbound	At the Carquinez Bridge, and prior to calling VTS.
Westbound	Between NY Point and Concord 3 (NWS Pier 3), and prior to calling VTS.
Leaving the dock	As soon as possible after making your Sailing Plan report to VTS.

General Communications Guidelines

Term	Meaning
REPEAT & ACK	Repeat and acknowledge the other party's communication after communication requiring action.
VERIFY	Say "That is correct" in place of the term "Roger" if rail's communication is correct.
END	Say "Out" when no reply is necessary. Use only at the conclusion of dialogue, after necessary information has been REPEATED and VERIFIED.
AFFIRM	The phrase " <i>Standing by for your call,</i> " when said by the rail means the following: With the information that I (bridge tender) have at this time, I should be able to lift the bridge when you call back at the time specified.

Quickly report suspected bridge damage!

Whistle Signal	5 or more short blasts
VHF Channel 13	Say, " Emergency, Emergency, Emergency "

To report UP Railroad Bridge damage call:

UP Railroad Emergency Response Management
+1-888-877-7267

VTS San Francisco Operations Center
+1-415-399-7410

Coast Guard District Eleven Bridge Section
+1-510-437-3516

Lift Request Procedures

Action	Syntax
REQUEST	"This is <i>[vessel name]</i> at <i>[location]</i> making a LIFT REQUEST. Request a full lift now."

Rail will repeat and acknowledge your communication.

VERIFY	"That is correct."
--------	--------------------

Rail will give you information on status of lift request.

REPEAT & ACK	"Understand <i>[repeat information from rail]</i> ."
-----------------	--

Rail will verify and end.

Drawbridge goes up.

When the drawbridge is at a full lift rail will advise you.

REPEAT & ACK	"Understand I have a full lift."
-----------------	----------------------------------

Rail will verify and end.

Cancel Lift Request Procedures

Action	Syntax
CANCEL	"This is <i>[vessel name]</i> at <i>[location]</i> canceling the lift request. No bridge lift is required."

Rail will repeat and acknowledge your communication.

VERIFY END	"That is correct. Out."
---------------	-------------------------

Emergency Communication Procedures

Action	Syntax
--------	--------

1. Whistle Alert to the Bridge

SOUND	Five or more rapid blasts of the whistle.
-------	---

2. Radio Alert to the Bridge

CALL	"UP Bridge this is <i>[vessel name]</i> ."
ALERT	" Emergency, Emergency, Emergency. "
INFO	<i>[Describe the emergency.]</i>

3. Damage Report to the Bridge

REPORT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rail track obstruction or damage? 2. Structural damage to bridge support?
--------	---

4. Damage / Injury Report to Coast Guard VTS

REPORT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People in the water? 2. Pollution? 3. Navigation channel passable? 4. Damage (fire, clouding, collapse, etc.)?
--------	--

Advance Call Procedures

Vessel	Syntax
--------	--------

NOTIFY RAIL	"This is <i>[vessel name]</i> making an ADVANCE CALL. I will call you at <i>[time]</i> to request a full lift."
----------------	---

Rail may ask you to delay your lift request time.

ANSWER RAIL	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. "Affirmative. <i>[vessel name]</i> will delay request for a full lift until <i>[time]</i>." <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> b. "Negative. <i>[vessel name]</i> is not able to delay request for a full lift."
----------------	--

1. Rail will repeat and acknowledge your communication.
2. Rail will say "Standing by for your call" to affirm bridge status.

VERIFY END	"That is correct. Out."
---------------	-------------------------