

BIPT clarification concerning VDES

The Belgian National Authority for telecommunication and postal services would like to remind all shipping companies with vessels sailing to Belgian ports that in line with the ITU Radio Regulations 2020 Appendix 18, a new VHF channel plan that enables the use of digital channels named VDES (VHF Data Exchange System) is in force since 01/01/2023.

This implies that all VHF equipment on board seagoing and inland vessels needs to be programmed in line with this new VDES channel plan.

The VDES channels can no longer be used for analogue (spoken) communication from 01/01/2023 onwards.

The VHF equipment onboard vessels needs to be reprogrammed before 31/12/2023:

Existing VHF channel 27 and VHF channel 28 (Duplex)

- **Selected channel is shown on a 4 digit display**

The VHF equipment needs to be programmed as to provide VHF Channel simplex 1027 (157,350 MHz) en 1028 (157,400 MHz) en 2027 (161,950 MHz) en 2082 (162,00MHz).

- VHF channel (simplex) 1027 and 1028 can be used for analogue (spoken) communication.
- VHF Channels 2027 and 2028 can only be used for ASM (Application Specific Messages). If the VHF equipment can not send ASM then the VHF channels 2027 en 2027 need to be blocked en can no longer be selected.

- **Selected channel is shown on a 2 digit display**

The VHF equipment needs to be programmed as to change VHF channel 27 and 28 (duplex) into 27L (157,350 MHz) and 28L (157,400 Mhz). These new channels can be used for analogue (spoken) communication. On the display of this equipment VHF 27 and 28 will still be shown.

Existing VHF Channels 24, 25, 26, 84, 85 and 88

These channels can no longer be used for analogue (spoken) communication. These channels are adapted to VDES channels and can only be used for data transmission.