



Port Community Information Bulletin # 20-02
Marine Safety Office (813) 228-2189
Tampa, Florida

Effective Date: August 29, 2002
Expiration Date: TBD

TAMPA BAY VESSEL TRAFFIC PROTOCOL ASSOCIATED WITH THE M/V SENSATION

The M/V Sensation provides service to the Port of Tampa every other Monday, Thursday, and Saturday in accordance with a vessel traffic protocol developed by the Tampa Bay Harbor Safety Committee and accepted by the U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port.

Initially, when the M/V SENSATION first started calling on the Port of Tampa, the Tampa Bay Pilots identified a unique navigational concern with its 855-foot length and 118-foot beam. It was determined at that time, that the M/V SENSATION's operating characteristics necessitated a one-way transit with no meeting or passing between Mullet Key Channel buoys 23/24 and Tampa Port Authority, Berth 272 with the exception of prearranged passing in Gadsden Cut. As a result, a vessel traffic protocol was established to ensure the timely and safe passage of all vessels during the transit of the M/V SENSATION.

A flow chart is attached to this bulletin which outlines the times during which the vessel traffic protocol is in effect, as well as the procedures for all vessels to follow so that delays are minimized. All vessel traffic constrained by draft shall provide a minimum of 2-hour advance notice of arrival or departure to Tampa Bay Vessel Traffic Advisory System (VTAS – Tampa Bay Traffic) if they anticipate operating during the M/V SENSATION's arrival or departure windows.

Coordination of vessel traffic will be provided by VTAS at call sign WHX-362, Channel 12 in conjunction with the Tampa Bay Pilots and the USCG Marine Safety Office. It is essential that all affected vessel traffic adhere to the vessel traffic protocol. This protocol will remain in effect until rescinded by the U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port or until the M/V SENSATION no longer calls on the Port of Tampa.

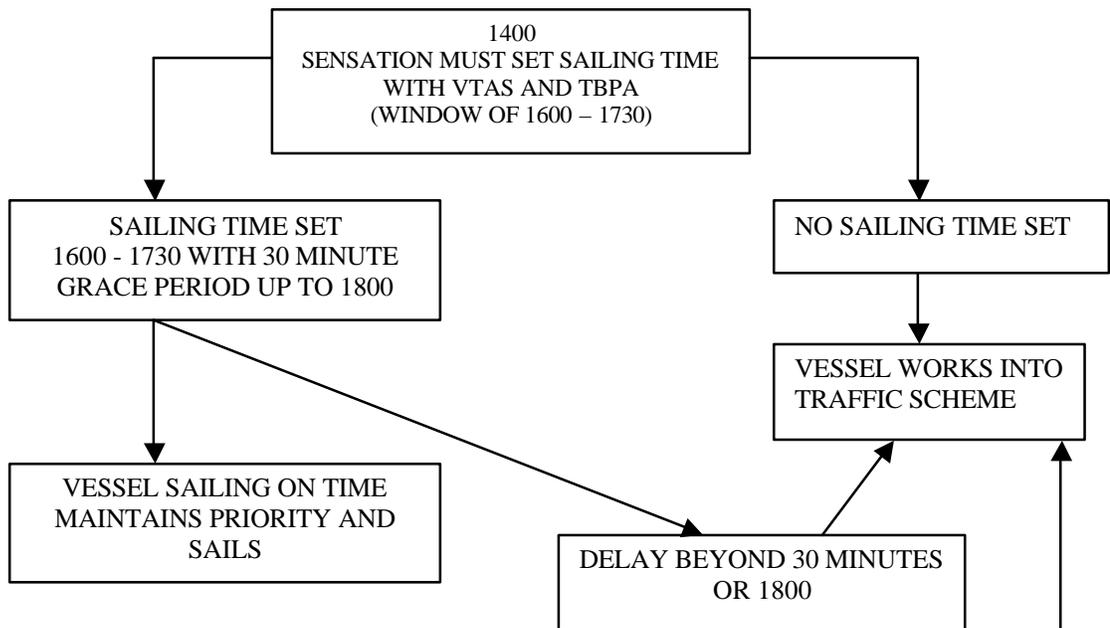
J. M. FARLEY
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port

M/V SENSATION
HANDLING GUIDELINES

INBOUND

SENSATION ARRIVES AT SEABUOY AT 0100
FOR A 0100-0300 START-UP DEPENDING ON TRAFFIC
FOR DOCKING NO LATER THAN 0730

OUTBOUND



EXCEPTIONAL WEATHER CIRCUMSTANCES

