

Concerning the Introduction of New Port Traffic Control at Mizushima Port

Beginning from July 1, 2012, new port traffic control using AIS (Automatic Identification System) will be introduced for sea traffic within Mizushima Port as described below.

1. Traffic control for controlled vessels and uncontrolled vessel in the traffic route (Traffic control according to vessel length)

Under certain conditions, an uncontrolled vessel which has been recognized by and received instructions from the harbor master may pass a controlled vessel on a traffic route within the port even when the outbound signal (O) or inbound signal (I) is shown.

2. Control to allow uncontrolled vessels to depart the Mizushima traffic route before a controlled vessel enters the route (Outbound control when the inbound signal (I) is shown)

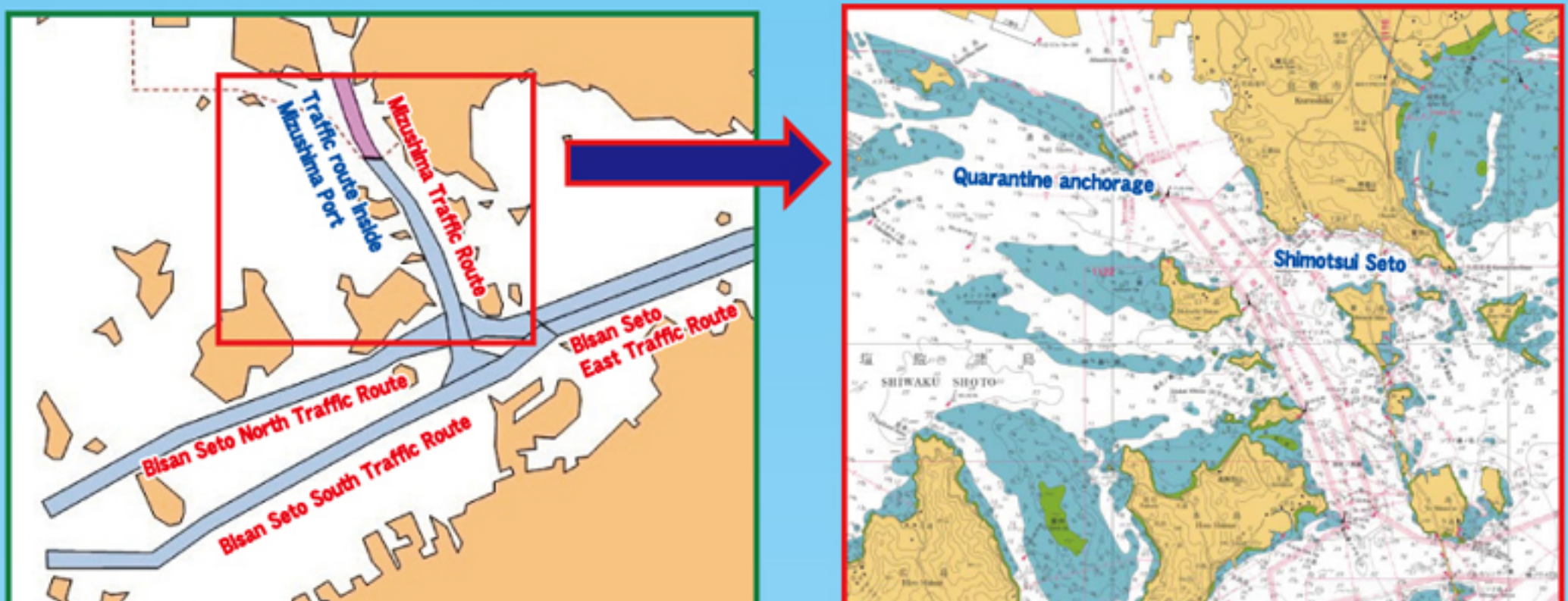
Under certain conditions, an uncontrolled vessel which has been recognized by and received instructions from the harbor master may depart via the port traffic route even when the inbound signal (I) is shown only when its destination is in the direction of Shimotsui Seto or the quarantine anchorage.

[Advance reporting from controlled vessels]

With the introduction of the new port traffic control, based on Article 36, Paragraph 3, Item 2 of the Act on Port Regulations, a controlled vessel which intends to enter or depart the port on the port traffic routes is required to provide an advance report of the scheduled entry or departure to the Mizushima Port harbor master (via the Bisan Seto Vessel Traffic Service Center) by noon of the preceding day.

However this advance report is not required when the vessel has made a report pursuant to the provisions of Article 22 of the Maritime Traffic Safety Act [report from large ships and other vessels concerning passage on the Mizushima traffic routes submitted to the Director-General of the Maritime Safety Agency (via the Bisan Seto Vessel Traffic Service Center)], and the vessel has made a report to the Mizushima Port mooring facility where it is anchored or intends to anchor.

Diagram of Area Surrounding Mizushima Port



Traffic control for controlled vessels and uncontrolled vessel in the traffic route

(Traffic control according to vessel length)

Previously when a controlled vessel (vessel of 200 m or larger) travelled on the port traffic route, passage of all uncontrolled vessels (vessels of 70 - less than 200 m) was restricted.

With the new port traffic control, because AIS information is used, under certain conditions an uncontrolled vessel which has been recognized by and received instructions from the harbor master may enter the port traffic route when the outbound signal (O) is shown, or may depart via the port traffic route when the inbound signal (I) is shown.

Fig.1: Traffic Control for Controlled Vessels and Uncontrolled Vessels in the Traffic Route [when O signal is shown]

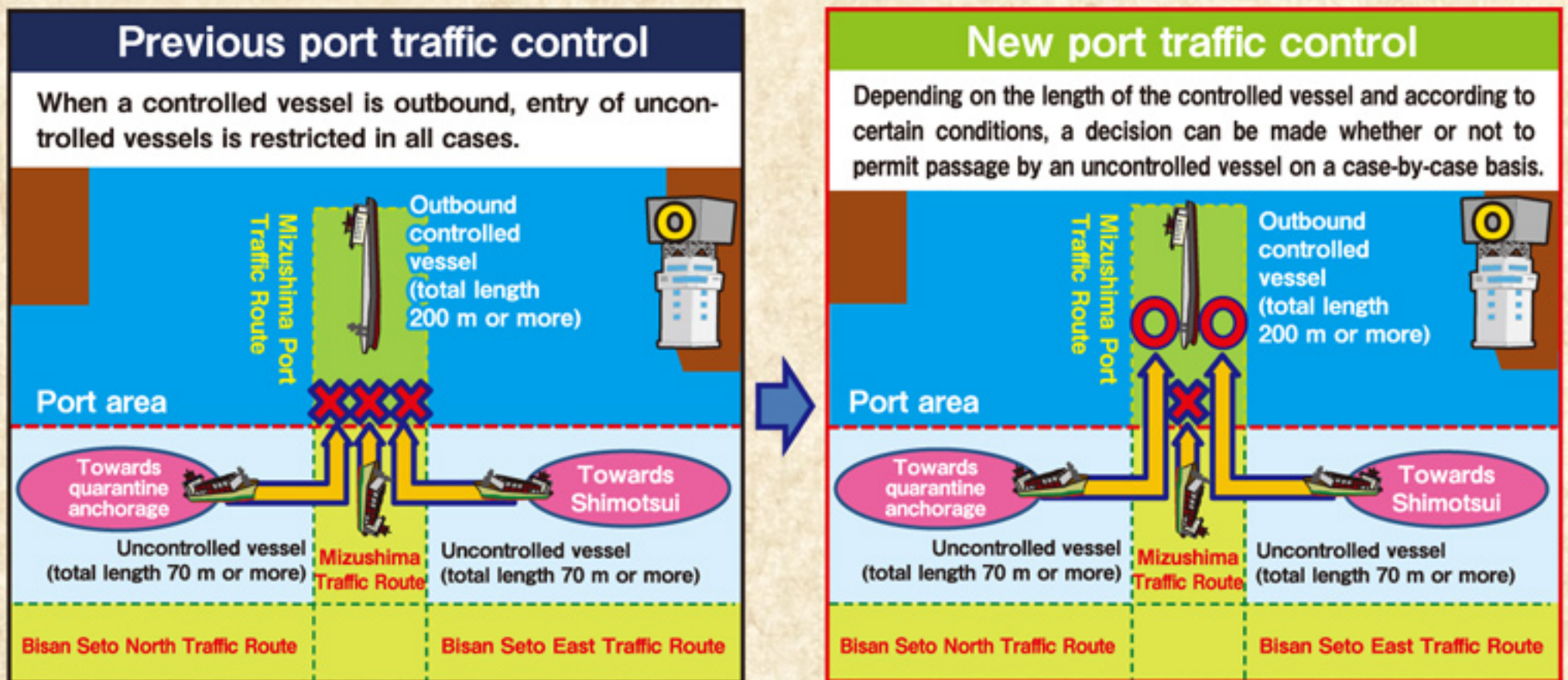
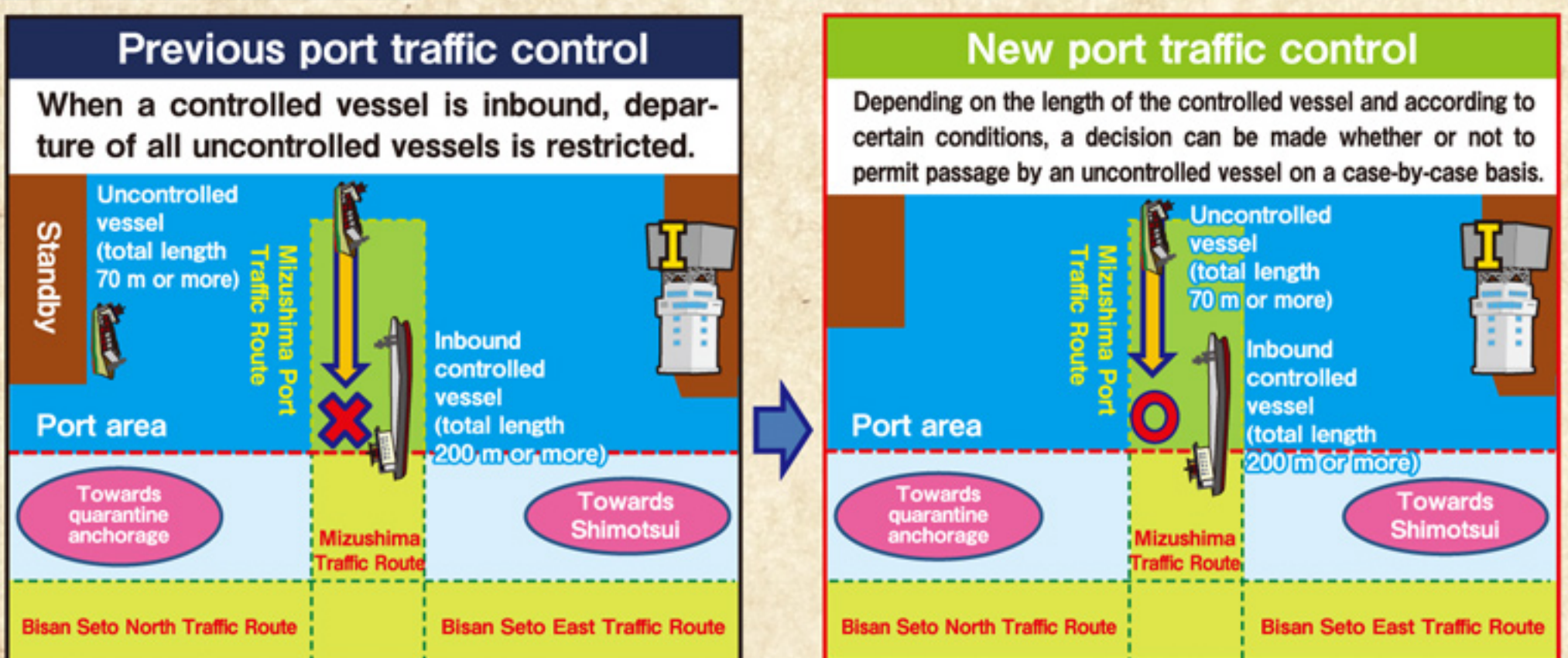


Fig.2: Traffic Control for Controlled Vessels and Uncontrolled Vessels in the Traffic Route [when I signal is shown]



*1 Controlled vessel : A vessel at or above a designated size (total length 200 m or more) which can travel on the traffic route only when the control signal is inbound (I) or outbound (O).

*2 Uncontrolled vessel: A vessel of a designated size (total length 70 - less than 200 m) which is restricted in passing an inbound or outbound controlled vessel on the traffic route.

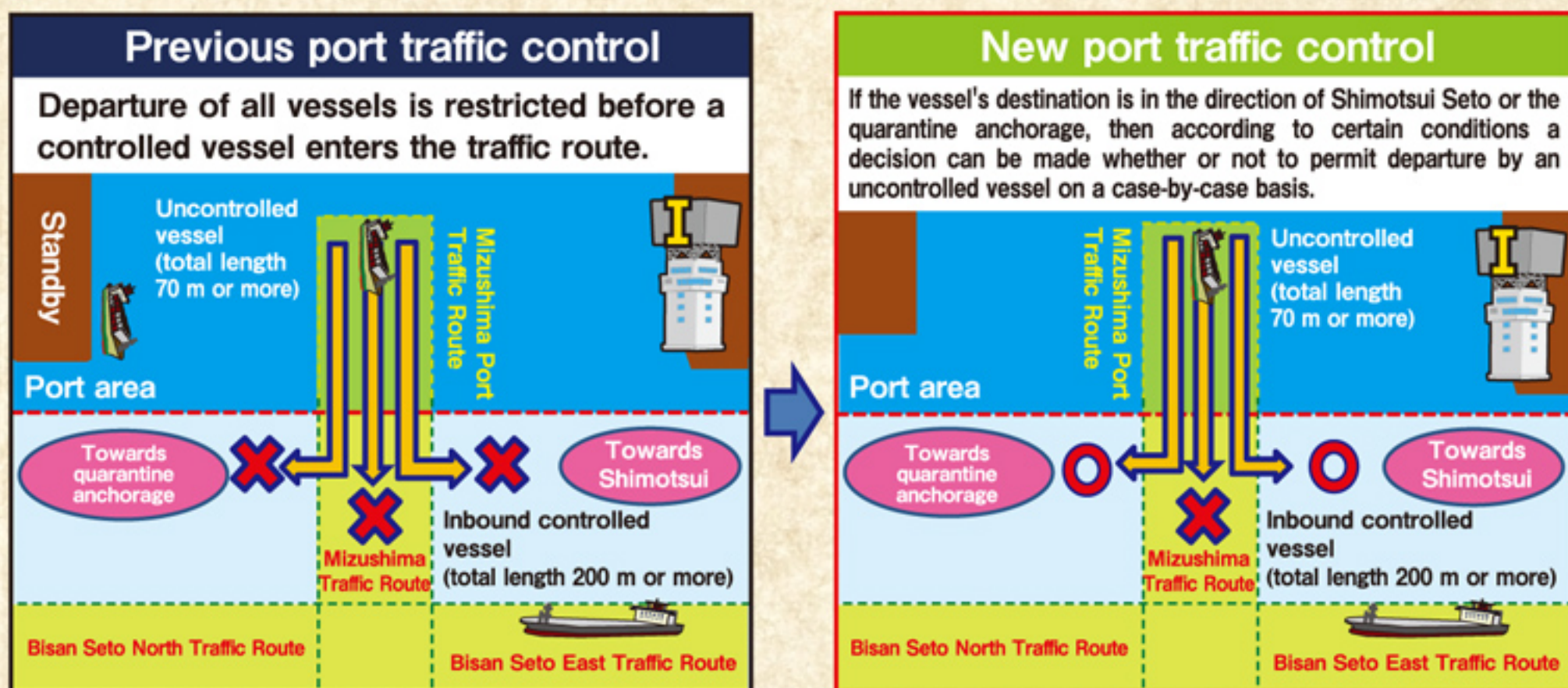
Control for departure of uncontrolled vessels before a controlled vessel enters the Mizushima Traffic Route

(Outbound control when the inbound signal (I) is shown)

Previously when a controlled vessel (vessel of 200 m or more) passed through the Bisan Seto East Traffic Route or Bisan Seto South Traffic Route to travel north on the Mizushima Traffic Route [when the inbound signal (I) is shown], departure on the port traffic route was restricted for all uncontrolled vessels (vessels of 70 - less than 200 m).

With the new port traffic control, because AIS information is used, under certain conditions an uncontrolled vessel which has been recognized by and received instructions from the harbor master may depart via the port traffic route even when the inbound signal (I) is shown only when its destination is in the direction of Shimotsui Seto or the quarantine anchorage.

Fig.3: Control for departure of uncontrolled vessels before a controlled vessel enters the Mizushima Traffic Route



Passage of uncontrolled vessels under the new port traffic control occurs under the following conditions.

[Common items]

It must be possible for the Bisan Seto Vessel Traffic Service Center to correctly verify the AIS information of the uncontrolled vessel.

[Control for passage of controlled and uncontrolled vessels in the traffic route]

1. The controlled vessel must not be an oil tanker (see note).
2. When an uncontrolled vessel enters the traffic route, it must do so from the Shimotsui Seto direction or the quarantine harbor direction.
3. The total length ℓ [m] of the uncontrolled vessel must satisfy the following condition.

$$\ell \leq 800 - 3 \times L \quad (L : \text{Total length of the controlled vessel [m]})$$
4. The time must be between 9:00 AM and sunset.
5. The wind speed must be 10 m/s or less. Visibility must be greater than 2,000 m, and the speed of the current must be 1.5 knots or less.

Length of uncontrolled vessel which may pass	
Controlled vessel	Uncontrolled vessel
200m	Less than 200 m
210m	170 m or less
220m	140 m or less
230m	110 m or less
240m	80 m or less
243m	71 m or less

[Control for departure of uncontrolled vessels before a controlled vessel enters the Mizushima Traffic Route]

1. The destination must be in the direction of Shimotsui Seto or the quarantine anchorage.
2. Visibility must be greater than 2,000 m.

Note: "Oil tanker" refers to a vessel carrying oil, liquid petroleum gas, or a liquid with a flash point below 23°C as measured by a closed cup flash point measurement apparatus, or a vessel which has been loaded with substances that produce flammable or explosive gas and the captain has not verified by gas tests that there is no risk of fire or explosion.

* If the harbor master judges that there is danger, passage of a vessel may not be approved even when the above conditions are met.

Procedure for requesting passage under the new port traffic control

(1) Check the schedule for controlled vessel inbound/outbound passage.

The schedule for inbound/outbound passage of controlled vessels on the Mizushima Port Traffic Route can be viewed on the Bisan Seto Vessel Traffic Service Center homepage.

PC URL - <http://www6.kaiho.mlit.go.jp/bisan/index.htm>

Mobile phone URL - <http://www6.kaiho.mlit.go.jp/bisan/m/index.htm>



Mobile phone
QR code

(2) Submit a request.

An uncontrolled vessel which would like to pass under the new port traffic control should submit a request to the Mizushima Port harbor master (via the Bisan Seto Vessel Traffic Service Center) by the means shown below.

Request timing

[Control for passage of controlled and uncontrolled vessels on the traffic route]

From 1 hour to 20 minutes before the uncontrolled vessel intends to enter the port traffic route.

[Control for departure of uncontrolled vessels before a controlled vessel enters the Mizushima Traffic Route]

From 2 hours to 30 minutes before the uncontrolled vessel intends to depart via the port traffic route.

Request procedure

The vessel shall submit a request directly to the Bisan Seto Vessel Traffic Service Center by one of the means listed below.

◇TEL : 0877-49-2220 or 0877-49-2221

◇FAX : 0877-49-1413 or 0877-49-1156

◇VHF : CH16, call name "BISAN MARTIS"

(3) Receive notification of approval or refusal of passage.

The requesting vessel will be notified of the result approving or refusing passage by AIS message, VHF, or telephone.

Uncontrolled vessels must confirm the contents of the AIS message, VHF, or telephone notification before entering the traffic route.

● Contact for inquiries

Safety Section, Traffic Department, 6th Regional Coast Guard Headquarters

3-10-17 Ujina Kaigan, Minami-ku, Hiroshima-shi, Hiroshima-ken 734-8560

TEL: 082-251-5111

Traffic Safety Section, Mizushima Coast Guard Office

2-15 Mizushima Fukusaki-cho, Kurashiki-shi, Okayama-ken 712-8056

TEL: 086-444-2967

Operations Management Section, Bisan Seto Vessel Traffic Service Center

3810-2 Aonoyama, Utazu-cho, Ayauta-gun, Kagawa-ken 769-0200

TEL: 0877-49-5537