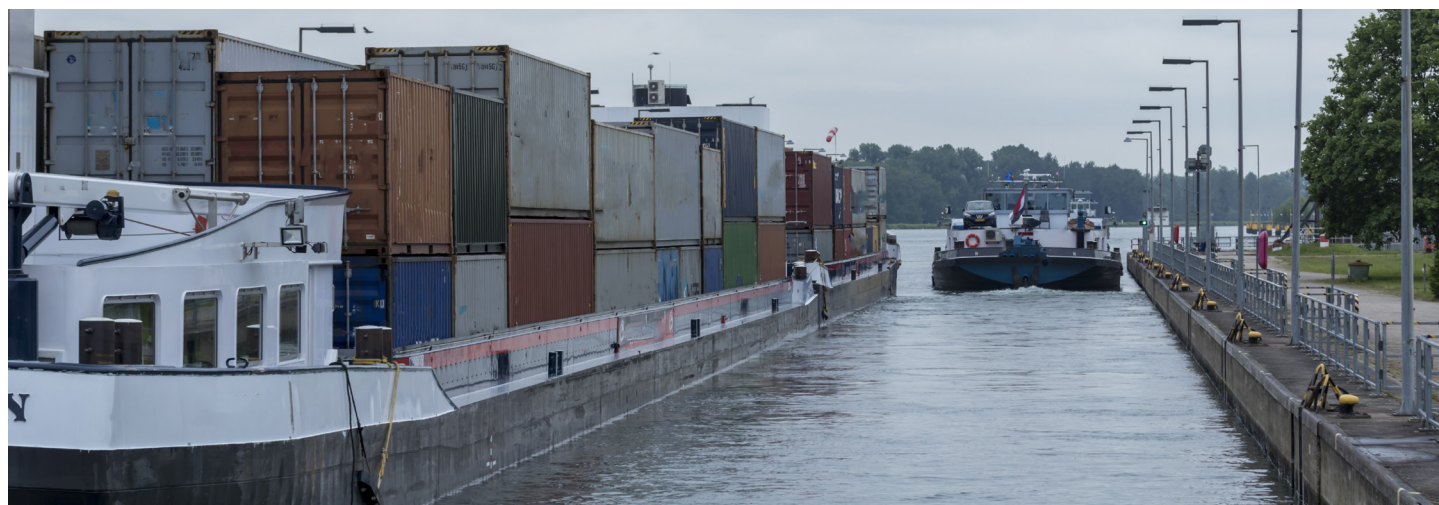


NIGHT-TIME CLOSURE OF LOCKS ON THE UPPER RHINE OWING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Ref: CC/CP (20)3



As a result of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic from which France and especially Alsace are currently suffering, the locks on the Upper Rhine will be closed at night when there is less traffic. This measure has been taken to protect the health of lock personnel and to ensure that lock operations can be maintained over the longer term because, notwithstanding rigorous precautionary and organisational measures, lock operational personnel on the Upper Rhine have become ill and are currently unavailable to operate the locks.

Given this situation, the lock operators on the Upper Rhine, *Wasserstraßen- und Schifffahrtsverwaltung des Bundes* (WSV), *Voies navigables de France* (VNF) and *Électricité de France* (EDF), have agreed to cease lock operations at night when there is less traffic, namely between 21:00 and 05:00. Night closure will commence on the night of 01 to 02 April. Locks will reopen at night once special protective measures for lock personnel are no longer required and sufficient lock operating staff are available again. All locks between Kembs and Iffezheim are affected by this measure. The traffic control centres and reporting points on the Rhine on the other hand will remain in operation at all times. The lock operators will ensure that sufficient berths are available for vessels arriving at the locks during the night.

The night-time closure of the locks will increase journey times for a small number of vessels. The measure will not jeopardise logistics chains and the public will continue to be supplied as the locks will continue to operate 16 hours a day and especially at times of high traffic volume.

The CCNR is convinced that this moderate reduction in lock operating times, which is as a result of concerted international action within the CCNR,

- addresses the legitimate health needs of all employees involved,
- takes account of the Mannheim Act, which ensures freedom of navigation on the Rhine,
- leaves supply chains unaffected to the greatest extent possible and
- takes account of the interests of the shipping industry, a sector that is already badly affected by the economic crisis caused by the health crisis.

The measure is consistent with the spirit of the CCNR [resolution "Special measures by the Central Commission relating to the Covid-19 pandemic"](#) of 23 March 2020.

ABOUT THE CCNR

The Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) is an international organisation that exercises an essential regulatory role in the navigation of the Rhine. It is active in the technical, legal, economic and environmental fields. In all its areas of action, its work is guided by the efficiency of transport on the Rhine, safety, social considerations, and respect for the environment. Many of the CCNR's activities now reach beyond the Rhine and are directly concerned with European navigable waterways more generally. The CCNR works closely with the European Commission as well as with the other river commissions and international organisations.



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