

# SAFE AND CORRECT LOCKAGE

## PLEASURE CRAFT

This brochure provides a simplified presentation of the sailing regulations concerning passage through locks and lockage priority.





A complete overview of sailing regulations for passage through locks and lockage priority is available on [www.VisuRIS.be/scheepvaartreglementering](http://www.VisuRIS.be/scheepvaartreglementering) (APSB art. 6.28, 6.28 / 1 and 6.29).

As a skipper, you must also comply with the temporary regulations in shipping notices. These messages are available on [www.VisuRIS.be/scheepvaartberichten](http://www.VisuRIS.be/scheepvaartberichten).

## LOCKAGE PRIORITY

### GENERAL REGULATION

Enter the lock in the order of arrival at the waiting area. Give large vessels priority when entering the lock.

### EXCEPTIONS

These vessels are entitled to lockage priority:

- A. Vessels from public authorities or rescue services with an urgent assignment. These vessels carry a normal blue, flickering light or a rapidly flickering light, visible from all sides, both at night and during the day.
- B. Vessels that have been given a right of lockage priority and carry a red pennant on the bow at a visible height as an additional daytime signal.

Always offer the necessary cooperation to allow these vessels to enter the lock without delay.

## FOR VESSELS WITH HAZARDOUS GOODS

A cone ship is a vessel carrying hazardous goods. You can recognize them by the blue cone(s) or the blue light they carry.



Always keep at least 10 m away from a vessel with a blue cone or blue light when in a lock or waiting area. This does not apply to other vessels that also carry a blue cone. A passenger vessel (+12 people) may not pass through a lock with a cone ship.

A vessel with two or three blue cones must be alone in a lock.

## MAXIMUM PERMITTED DIMENSIONS

The maximum permitted dimensions of vessels for each lock (chamber) are listed at [www.VisuRIS.be](http://www.VisuRIS.be).

Note: sailing vessels are not allowed in some locks if the height of the lock is limited.



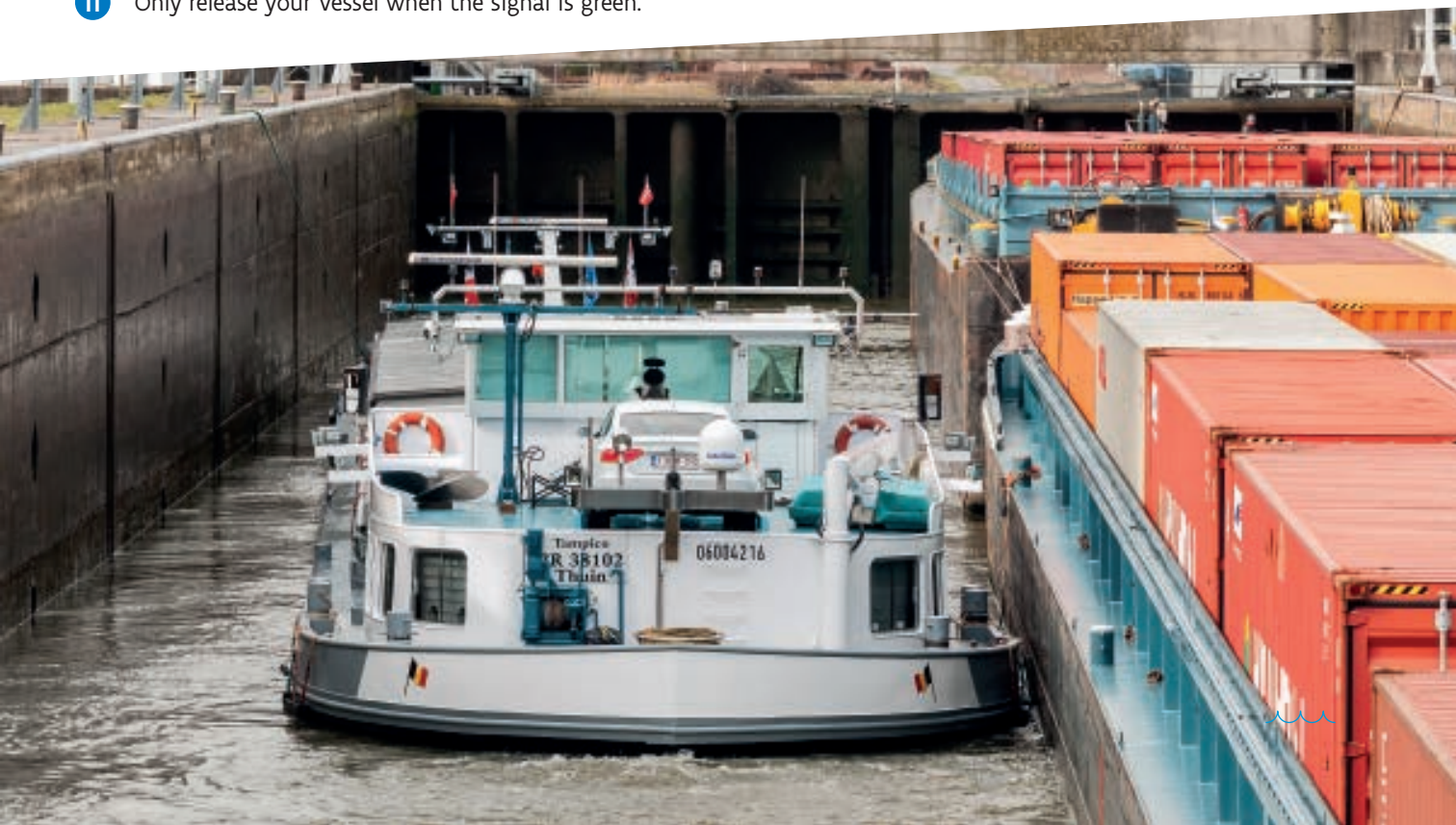
## SAFE AND CORRECT LOCKAGE IN 11 STEPS

- 1 Reduce speed and use your VHF radio for requesting operation and any further communication with the operating personnel.
- 2 Hang sufficient fenders on both sides of your vessel
- 3 Wait in front of the red light
- 4 When the lights turn green and red, the lock gates are about to open. Keep your vessel ready to sail.
- 5 Enter the lock in the order of arrival at the waiting area, but wait until the commercial vessels are moored safely in the lock.
- 6 Lock operation will run safely and smoothly with optimal distribution of vessels in the chamber. Always follow the operating personnel's instructions regarding your position.
- 7 Take your berth within the specified limits and keep some distance from large vessels.
- 8 Make your vessel fast fore and aft with mooring lines.
- 9 Disengage the propeller.
- 10 Help fellow sailors to make fast alongside.
- 11 Only release your vessel when the signal is green.

## ADDITIONAL POINTS POINTS FOR ATTENTION

- Moderate your speed when entering and exiting a lock to avoid danger and damage.
- Do not pass other vessels when approaching a lock or waiting area.
- Haul your anchors fully in before entering a lock.
- Let out and haul in your mooring lines in such a way that it will not damage other vessels in the lock.
- In locks, only use fenders or bumpers made of materials that cannot sink. Car tires and bundles of rope are not allowed.
- It is forbidden to pour or let water flow onto other vessels in the lock.
- Once you have moored your vessel in the lock, you may not use locomotive devices until you are permitted to sail out of the lock again.

**Always follow the operating personnel's instructions.**



# PRACTICAL SAILING RULES AND SIGNALS WHEN ENTERING AND EXITING LOCKS

Signals (lights or signs) on the starboard side or both sides of the entrance regulate entry and exit at a lock.

If there are no signals and the operating personnel do not give permission, you are not permitted to enter or exit a lock.

## LOCK IN USE

- Red lights: Entry and exit prohibited.



- Lights at the top red, lights below green:  
Entry prohibited, but will be permitted soon.



- Green lights: Entry and exit allowed.



## LOCK OUT OF USE

- Red lights: Entry prohibited.



- Green lights: Through passage allowed,  
the lock is open at both ends.



## OPERATION AT THE END OF AN OPERATING DAY

You will be served when you present your vessel at the lock before the closing time and if the following conditions are fulfilled:

- 1 Your vessel is less than 500 meters away from the lock.
- 2 Your vessel is at the end of the lock where lockage is accepted.
- 3 There is still room available for your vessel in the lock chamber.

## REPORTING INCIDENTS OF DAMAGE

All shipping is obliged to immediately report incidents involving damage (accidents, damages or canal contamination), whereby the liability of De Vlaamse Waterweg nv might be in question, immediately to the River Information Services (RIS), a service of De Vlaamse Waterweg nv: [ris.evergem@vlaamsewaterweg.be](mailto:ris.evergem@vlaamsewaterweg.be) or [www.visuris.be/probleemmelden](http://www.visuris.be/probleemmelden) or [ris.hasselt@vlaamsewaterweg.be](mailto:ris.hasselt@vlaamsewaterweg.be).

After the report, De Vlaamse Waterweg nv will, if necessary, conduct an investigation into the nature, cause and extent of the claim and decide whether the vessel should be stopped. The skipper must provide all available information about the incident involving damage.

## ASSISTANCE FROM THE LOCK QUAY

The operating personnel only provide assistance, namely accepting mooring ropes, on the following locks and following the express request of the pleasure craft user:

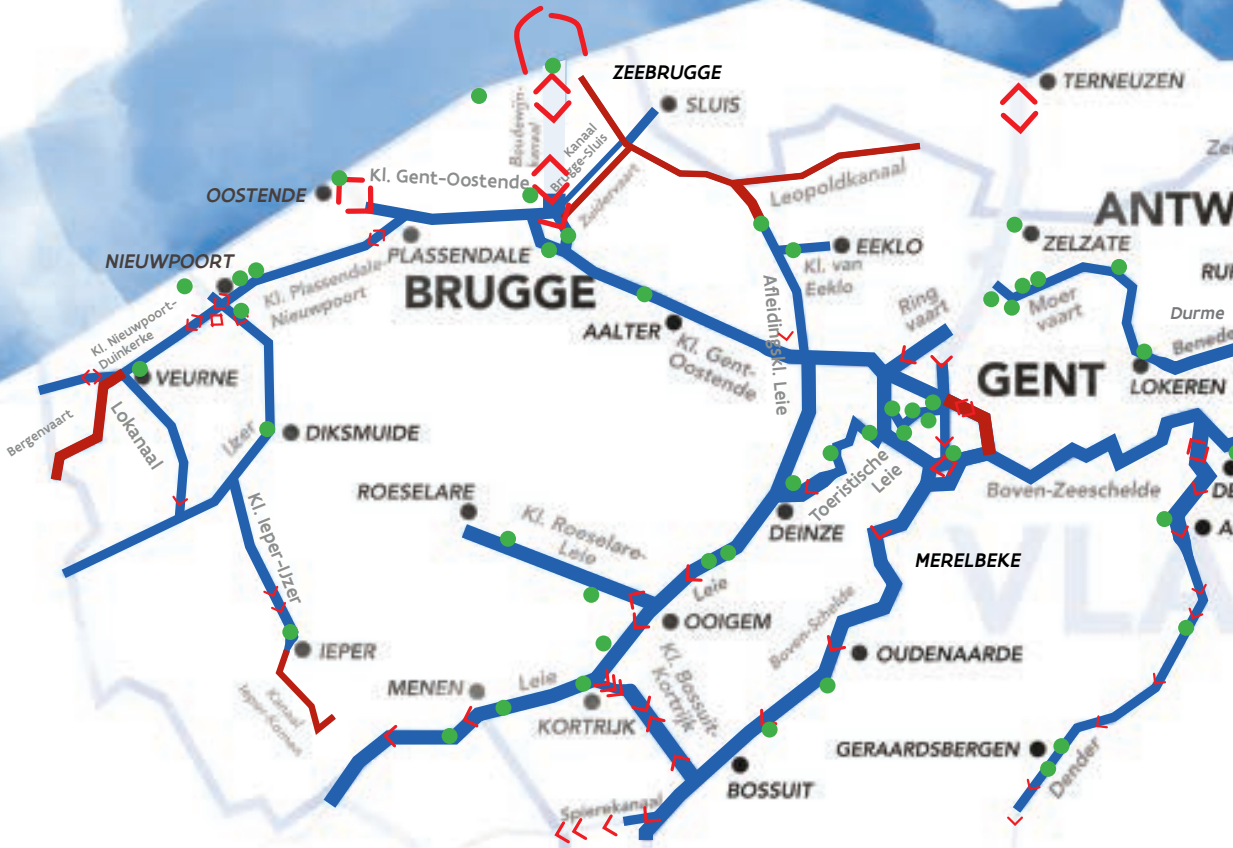
- Lembeek Lock(Canal to Charleroi);
- The Dammepoort lock in Bruges (The canal from Ghent to Ostend);
- Wijnegem Lock (Albert Canal);
- Locks 1 to 9 (Bocholt-Herentals canal)
- Locks 1 to 9 (Dessel-Turnhout-Schoten canal)

## ACCESS TO A LOCK FOR MANUALLY PROPELLED SMALL VESSELS AND WATER SCOOTERS

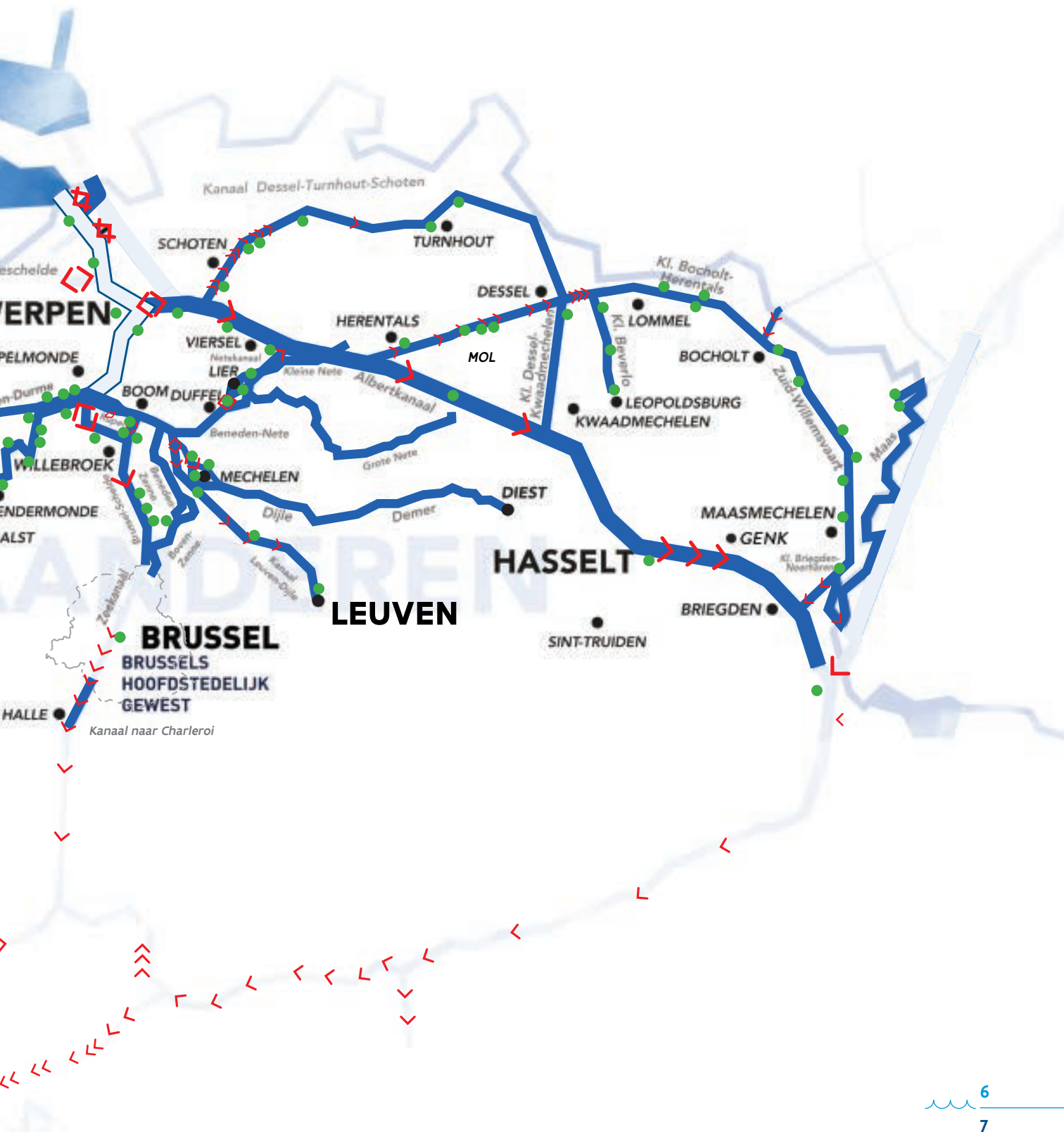
For safety reasons, small manually propelled vessels and water scooters are not permitted to access locks on the Flemish waterways. The Vlaamse Waterweg nv can allow access by way of exception, subject to any conditions it may set.



NOORDZEE



- Marinas/Mooring places
- Sailing onwards prohibited
- > Lock



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