

## Important Points for Efficiently Taking Over a Bridge Navigational Watch

As the navigating officers have to keep bridge watches round the clock, the practice of taking over of the watch by a relieving Officer of watch (OWW) from the present officer-of-watch is followed everyday. Here are some brief notes on the most important factors which need to be checked and reassured along with some good practices to be followed while taking over a bridge watch.



### 1. Ship's Position – Speed – Course

The most important factor or the first thing to be checked after coming upon the bridge is the position and speed of the ship. Once you are satisfied with the position of the ship on the chart, it is a good practice to browse through the chart and the course to be followed till the end of your watch. Check for waypoints of course alterations, any reporting points, traffic separation schemes, shallow patches, or any dangers to navigation along the intended track marked on the chart.

### 2. Traffic Density

Now that you are satisfied with the position and course of the ship, without wasting time look outside the bridge to get a clear view of the horizon and check the number of vessels around. It is advised to take a walk all the way to both the bridge wings to get a view of the stern of the ship, as it is likely to be omitted. Once you have visually ascertained the situation outside, glance at the Radar screen for the targets around and for more information provided by the Automatic Radar Plotting Aids (ARPA). It is recommended to switch to higher range scales for early detection of the aspect of vessels coming down (if any).

If your ship is already in a situation such as overtaking, close-quarter, or a crossing situation, DO NOT take over the watch until the situation is over and the vessel is past and quite clear.

If you want to know more, please scan the two-dimension code.

