

Bridge & Traffic Signals

Traffic Control To insure a safe flow of traffic in the Ship Canal, the first thing to remember is the speed limit - 7 knots. Watch for areas posted for additional reductions in speed. For example, you must slow to 2-½ knots or less when entering and leaving the Locks.

Also, watch for traffic signals. Red and green traffic signal lights are located in four locations along the canal:

- The west side of the Ballard Bridge.
- The east side of the Fremont Bridge.
- 1,000 feet (304.8 m) west and east of the Montlake Bridge.

Vessels of 300 gross tons (272.15 metric tons) and over, and all vessels with tows, shall not pass the red lights. Vessels of less than 300 gross tons (272.15 metric tons) without tows may disregard these signals but should travel very slowly.

Bridge raising

If you are in a large vessel or sailboat, you may have to ask for as many as six bridges to be raised. You should know the height of your mast and be prepared to signal the bridge tender at least 100 yards (30.48 m) from the bridge.

Signal Definitions:

___ Short blast, less than 4 seconds

___ Long blast, less than 4 seconds

___ ___ 4 Shorts for danger or no opening

___ ___ 1 Long and 2 Shorts to lower salt water barrier in large lock

Bridge Opening Signals (As encountered from seaward)

All vessels: Use whistle or horn signals to communicate to bridge tenders

Burlington Northern Bridge (Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad) ___

Clearance 43 feet (13.11 m) at high tide (mean high water of an approximate 10-foot/3.05-m tide)

Ballard Bridge (Seattle Department of Transportation)

Clearance 44 feet (13.72 m) at center span at mean regulated lake level. Closed weekdays 7 - 9 a.m. and 4 - 6 p.m., except national holidays but closed Columbus Day. To open bridge 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., call (206) 386-4251, 1 hour before arrival.

Fremont Bridge (Seattle Department of Transportation) ___

Clearance 30 feet (9.14 m) at center span at mean regulated lake level. Closed weekdays 7 - 9 a.m. and 4 - 6 p.m., except national holidays but closed Columbus

Day. To open bridge 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., call (206) 386-4251, 1 hour before arrival.

University Bridge (Seattle Department of Transportation) _____

Clearance 42 feet 6 inches at center span at mean regulated lake level. Closed weekdays 7 - 9 a.m. and 4 - 6 p.m., except national holidays but closed Columbus Day. To open bridge 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., call (206) 386-4251, 1 hour before arrival.

Montlake Bridge (Washington State Department of Transportation) _____

Clearance 46 feet (14.02 m) at center span at mean regulated lake level.

May - August, Closed weekdays 7 - 9 a.m. and 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. **September - April**, Closed weekdays 7 - 10 a.m. and 3:30 - 7 p.m., except national holidays but closed Columbus Day. Call (206) 386-4251 (or marine ch.13) 1 hour before arrival. **12:30 - 3:30 a.m.** only opens on the hour and half-hour.

SR 520 Evergreen Point Floating Bridge (Washington State Department of Transportation) _____

Clearance 54 feet (16.46 m) east, 45 feet (13.72 m) west. To open bridge, call (206) 440-4490 a minimum of 2 hours prior to needed opening. No drawspan openings are allowed on weekdays 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

I-90 Mercer Island Floating Bridge (Washington State Department of Transportation) _____ —

Bridge does not open. Pass under east and west high rises. Clearance 28 feet east and west of center span. Clearance 70 feet east channel bridge east of Mercer Island.

Point of Contact: Dru
Butterfield

Phone: (206) 789-2622
x210

Email:
DRU.E.BUTTERFIELD@USACE.ARMY.MIL