

Visibility reports for Hong Kong waters

Written by Ng Moon-chiu December 2010

Fog is a common weather phenomenon that may affect navigation safety and shipping operation in Hong Kong waters. During the fog season in spring, the visibility in Hong Kong waters sometimes reduces to below 1,000 metres in fog.

The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) and the Marine Department (MD) monitor visibility in Hong Kong waters closely. Visibility reports are available on the HKO website: http://www.hko.gov.hk/vis/vis_index.shtml (please see sample below) for consumption by members of the public.

HKO provides visibility reports for HKO, Chek Lap Kok, Central, Sai Wan Ho and Waglan Island. The visibility reports at HKO are based on hourly observations by a trained meteorological observer. The visibility readings at Chek Lap Kok, Central, Sai Wan Ho and Waglan Island are derived from automatic measurements taken by [visibility meters](#) in the 10 minutes ending at the indicated time.

MD's voluntary ship observers would report visibility readings for East Lamma Channel, Kowloon Bay, Ma Wan, South Lantau, Tathong Point, Urmston Road, Victoria Harbour, Waglan & Po Toi Islands, West Lamma Channel & Cheung Chau, and Western Anchorage when fog, mist or haze occurs in Hong Kong waters.

The occurrence of fog, mist or haze may be rather localized. Users of the reports are advised to take note of sudden change in visibility at nearby locations and in a short period of time.

Visibility Reports
at 1700 HKT 21 MAR 2010

Ship master should navigate with caution in restricted visibility

Legend	
< 1000 m	Red
1001 - 3000 m	Orange
3001 - 5000 m	Yellow
> 5000 m	Green

