

VNF keeps improving and developing user services with an ongoing objective of making navigation conditions safer and easier.

The online cargo reporting is part of this policy and completes the range of services offered. Improving the performance and safety of waterways, the various services developed, whether river information services in the form of electronic navigation charts (ECDIS), exchange of information between boats, ports and loading agents (AIS), calculating itineraries, the waterways eco-calculator (EVE) or services on shore, such as mooring, waste collection and access to water and electricity, all contribute to enhancing the productivity and efficiency of water-transport and inland waterway operators.

Before implementation, the online cargo declaration was extensively discussed with users, as was the case for each of the services offered, in order to match as best users' requirements and expectations to optimal effect.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

The transport Code specifies that "all public or private goods transporters will be charged a toll for any journey taking place on a waterway located on the public network managed by VNF."

Cargo reporting is mandatory before any travel is undertaken. All goods transporters are required to keep a cargo declaration on board, indicating the weight and type of goods transported, loading and unloading operations carried out during the journey as well as the departure point and destination. This declaration must be sent to VNF (paper copy) or online (VELI) before commencing travel.

"Failure to file a cargo declaration may be fined, even after transport has taken place, by duly sworn and commissioned officials representing VNF for the payment of tolls by virtue of article L. 4462-4 of the transport code, shall result in the drafting of a report by these same officials on the basis of the elements at their disposal."

This report will be used in place of the cargo declaration and results in the automatic invoicing of the toll amount due, increased by a 20% penalty applying to the difference between amounts due and declared (Board of Directors decision no. 80 of 15 December 2004). The penalty charge rate is limited to half the sums outstanding.

The same procedure applies in the event of inaccurate declarations.

Cargo reporting



PAR IMAGE Photos: VNF

VNF' new online cargo reporting application.

To improve the quality of services offered to transporters, Voies navigables de France is enabling cargo declarations to be filed online. An experimental phase of the VELI application is now accessible to all inland waterways carriers.

VNF has run a system for recording journeys and invoicing goods tolls since 1 January 2000. Initially known as "VNF 2000", it was subsequently renamed "Voyage", in 2011. VNF also uses it to produce the corresponding waterway transport statistics.

What benefits for the transporter?

- > 24-hour access, 7 days a week on the VNF website;
- > Leaving the boat to have declarations stamped by checking points at locks is no longer required;
- > Direct access to client and boat files to update data;
- > Direct contact with VNF local branches;
- > Paper-free process, declarations are no longer submitted or sent by post.

Key advantages of VELI

- > A new tool allowing **toll costs to be estimated** by accessing the vnf.fr website without a login or password. Direct access for all users available when transporters make their travel declarations from the travel data provided;
- > **Greenhouse gas emissions will be calculated** for the transport using the data entered for travel (end of 2013).

VNF local branches

Waziers	16, route de tournai
+33 (0)3 27 94 55 70	59 119 WAZIERS
Dunkerque	Terre-plein de l'écluse du jeu de mail
+33 (0)3 28 58 71 25	BP 1008 - 59 375 DUNKERQUE Cedex
Nancy	2, rue Victor - Pont des Tiercelins
+33 (0)3 83 17 01 01	54 000 NANCY
Strasbourg	25, rue de la Nuée Bleue
+33 (0)3 88 21 74 24	BP 30367 - 67010 STRASBOURG Cedex
Lyon	2, rue de la Quarantaine
+33 (0)4 72 56 17 73	69 321 LYON Cedex 05
Saint-Quentin	44, rue du Gouvernement
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User-friendly and accessible tool



On the www.vnf.fr website heading River transport/Regulations & Formalities

- > Help available for entering data;
- > Drop-down menus;
- > PDF documents accessible at all times, no printing required;
- > Individual assistance and accompaniment to help you familiarize yourself with the tool;
- > Entering personal data is no longer necessary : appears automatically on declarations when the login and password are entered;
- > Secure third-party payment procedure.

Declarations can still be filed in paper form