MOSEL WATERWAY

FROM DECEMBER 2026, 3 LOCKS WILL BE REMOTELY CONTROLLED: APACH - THIONVILLE - ARS-SUR-MOSELLE



WHAT CHANGES FOR ME

My lock operation is still carried out by an operator, but the operator now controls the lock remotely from a Central Control Center (CCC). Cameras and monitoring equipment allow the operator to supervise the lock and operations remotely, ensuring safe maneuvering.

MY NEW POINT OF CONTACT: THE CCC

How to communicate with the CCC
Reminder: Communications are in French.
With a VHF radio: I use the usual Channel 20, which is automatically directed to the CCC for remotely controlled locks.
Without a VHF radio: The existing telephone numbers for each lock remain operational.

Once I am in the lock chamber:
An intercom is available on the lock landing.
The operator may provide information via loudspeaker.
Pre-recorded safety messages may be broadcast in several languages.

Once my vessel is moored, I can notify the operator via VHF to help start the lock operation.
The operator remotely checks that all conditions are met before starting the lock cycle.

In case of difficulties passing through the lock (for example logjam):
I will report on the situation to the CCC operator, who will arrange for a technician to attend the site.
While waiting for the technician to arrive, I keep my vessel safe and follow the CCC operator's instructions.

I NAVIGATE AT NIGHT

At Ars-sur-Moselle: no prior notification is required.

For the other locks between Metz and Neuves-Maisons: prior notification is still required.

I contact the regional call center before 3 p.m
+33 3 83 64 12 17

THE REMOTELY CONTROLLED LOCKS ARE NOW FENCED OUT

For everyone's safety:

- **I must not enter or leave fenced-out areas,** except in an emergency.
- In case of emergency, I use **the emergency exit gates.**
- **Vehicle loading and unloading remains possible in certain areas:**
  Apach: designated area upstream, right bank - Thionville: upstream, right bank

I PLAN AHEAD BEFORE PASSING THROUGH

Water supply will continue to be available at Thionville, on the right bank, upstream of the lock. Water tokens can be purchased from Lorraine Multi Hubs at Thionville port.

At Apach, water supply will be maintained temporarily, by appointment on weekdays.

Practical arrangements will be specified in a Notice to Skippers (AvisBat).

Flood level markers are no longer displayed at locks and guard gates.

I check the NAVI app for navigation conditions.

NAVI App



THE CENTRAL CONTROL CENTER (CCC)

The locks are operated from a Central Control Center (CCC).
There is no longer an operator permanently present on site, but staff can attend the locks if necessary.
Operators remotely supervise the locks and monitor traffic using cameras and safely control lock operations.
This change is part of a national program led by Voies navigables de France to modernise the operation of the large-gauge inland waterway network.

Smooth, efficient and safe navigation



Centralized control of the remotely operated locks makes it possible to:

- optimize traffic management;
- better coordinate the locks along the waterway;
- facilitate night-time navigation without prior notification;
- harmonize VNF operating procedures;
- reduce closure periods: from December 24 at 4:30 pm to December 26 at 4:30 pm, and from December 31 at 2:00 pm to January 1st at 2:00 pm.



WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER LOCKS?

Remote control will gradually be extended to the entire Mosel waterway route.

Today: Apach · Thionville · Ars-sur-Moselle
Next step: Toul · Aingeray · Fontenoy in 2028
Until they are remotely controlled, the other structures will continue to be operated locally by a lock keeper, with the usual closure days.



NEED HELP?

A QUESTION ABOUT REMOTE CONTROL
CONTACT: usagerdtne@vnf.fr

A PROBLEM ON THE WATERWAY?
24/7 CONTACT: KOENIGSMACKER LOCK
+33 3 82 55 01 58

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vnf Voies navigables de France

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