



Long-Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) of Ships

To: Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters and Classification Societies

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to advise recipients of the following:

- new regulations in Chapter V (Safety of Navigation) of the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention in respect of Long-Range Identification and Tracking Systems (LRIT). This new requirement entered into force on 1 January 2008 with compliance date starting from 1 January 2009, and
- information about Authorized Testing Application Service Providers (ASP) for testing shipboard LRIT equipment for Hong Kong registered vessels.

Introduction

1. The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted the resolution MSC.202(81) to amend SOLAS regulation V/19-1 to include the requirements on Long-Range Identification and Tracking of ships. These requirements entered into force internationally on 1 January 2008 with compliance dates starting on 1 January 2009.

Applicability and Requirements

2. The LRIT requirements will apply to the following ships engaged on international voyages:

- all passenger ships including high speed craft;
- cargo ships, including high speed craft of 300 gross tonnage and above; and
- mobile offshore drilling units.

3. Shipboard LRIT equipment must be capable of being configured to transmit automatically the following minimum information, 4 times a day (every 6 hours) to a Data Centre:

- the identity of the ship;
- the position of the ship; and
- the date and time of the position.

4. The ship will not be charged for the LRIT transmission for which the costs will be borne by Member States that are entitled to receive and have used the data.

5. The following implementation table gives the latest permitted implementation dates according to the areas in which ships operate:

<i>SHIPS</i> (over 300 gt)	<i>GMDSS AREA OF OPERATION</i>	<i>DATE OF LRIT IMPLEMENTATION</i>
Ships constructed on or after 31 December 2008*	All	From date of build
Ships constructed before 31 December 2008*	A1 and A2 or A1, A2 and A3	Not later than 1 st survey of the radio installation after 31 December 2008
Ships constructed before 31 December 2008*	A1, A2, A3 and A4**	Not later than 1 st survey of the radio installation after 1 July 2009
Remark: * Ships, irrespective of date of build, operating ONLY in areas A1 and fitted with AIS are <u>not</u> required to transmit LRIT information. ** But when operating in areas A1, A2 and A3 they must comply with the earlier date of 31 December 2008.		

Shipboard LRIT Equipment Testing

6. SOLAS regulation V/19-1.6 specifies that shipboard LRIT equipment should be of a type approved by the Administration. However, currently no such approved LRIT equipment is available on the market. As an interim measure, shipboard LRIT equipment after passing a conformance testing conducted by an authorized ASP could be considered as an approved type in accordance with the IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1257, *Guidance on the Survey and Certification of Compliance of Ships with the Requirement to Transmit LRIT Information*.

7. Although majority of Hong Kong registered ships are equipped with compatible Inmarsat C GMDSS, a small percentage may not conform to the IMO Performance Standards for a range of operational, physical and technical reasons. These reasons could be any one of the following : uncontrolled in-port log-off and/or power-down procedures, poor antenna mounting location, satellite line-of-sight blockage by ship's structure, interference from ship's radar, external wide-area radio interference in certain locations and inability to meet the requirements due to out-of-date software and/or unsupported hardware.

8. Shipowners and masters are advised to take early action by consulting your equipment manufacturers to ensure that the shipboard LRIT equipment fitted is fully compliant with the requirements as specified in the LRIT Performance Standards, IMO Resolution MSC.210(81) before approaching the authorized Testing APS to conduct conformance tests in accordance with the MSC.1/Circ.1257 for the issuance of a Conformance Test Report.

Data Centre and Authorized Testing Application Service Providers for Hong Kong registered ships

9. Hong Kong registered ships will use the China National Data Centre in the management of LRIT data. The China Transportation & Telecommunication Centre will be the recognized APS for the China National Data Centre. Its contact details are as follows:

The China Transportation & Telecommunication Centre

Address : 1, Waiguan Houshen
Anwai, Beijing 100011
China

Tel. : 0086 10 65293382
Fax : 0086 10 65293322
Email : lrit@cttc.org.cn
Website : <http://www.lrit.com.cn> (Under construction)
Contact : Shirley ZHANG

10. Other than the China Transportation & Telecommunication Centre, the following two (2) companies have also been appointed as authorized ASP to conduct conformance tests of shipboard LRIT equipment on Hong Kong registered ships for compliance:

Pole Star Space Applications Limited

Address : Suite 301 – 303
Whiteleys Centre
Queensway
London W2 4YN
United Kingdom

Tel : 44 (0) 20 7313 7400
Fax : 44 (0) 20 7313 7401
Email : shipinfo@lrit.com
Website : <http://www.lrit.com>

Transas Telematics Limited

Address : 4 Compass Point
Ensign Way
Hamble
Southampton SO31 4AR

United Kingdom

Tel : 44 (0) 23 8045 8544
Fax : 44 (0) 23 8045 8733
Email : lrit@transastelematics.com
Website : <http://www.transas.com/telematics>

11. Resolution MSC.202(81) and MSC.1/Circ.1257 are not enclosed with this Note. However, they are available as attachments to this Note on the webpage of Marine Department. (<http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html>)

Marine Department
Multi-lateral Policy Division

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