

Message to local ship managers/representatives

Dear Sirs,

We hereby ask your attention for the following.

As known, the final phase of LRIT equipment testing on board ships by the several Application Service Providers (ASP's) is nearing rapidly. By now most of the NA vessels already went through a conformance test procedure and consequently obtained a Conformance Test report (CTR) for their specific LRIT terminal on board.

Needless to say that the purpose of this LRIT terminal is to provide position reports to the Flag State of the vessel as required by the IMO Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) regulations - SOLAS ChV/19-1 and associated performance standards-, when time comes.

It is a requirement that your vessel keeps the certificate obtained on board and available for inspection.

Furthermore the directorate of Shipping & Maritime Affaires wants to emphasize that the LRIT regulation requires no action or intervention on behalf of the Master other than ensuring the equipment remains *powered up and logged in at all time* as from the moment of assessment.

The latter is very important due to the fact that the ASP, as mentioned before is still in a testing phase and for that purpose needs communication with the LRIT device aboard your vessel. Any expense that may arise from penalties imposed by the data centre authorities EMSA for not complying with the above will be on ship owner's account.

Our directorate urges you to keep good notice of the afore-mentioned. In case you need more information, please contact your local representative at Willemstad.

Yours sincerely,

J. Sierhuis, director a.i.

Directorate of Shipping & Maritime Affairs