

Shipowners urged to avoid leaving LRIT until deadline

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Shipowners need to ensure their vessels meet with the functional requirements of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)'s long range identification and tracking (LRIT) framework by 31 December, 2008.

But, in a mini white paper written exclusively for Ocean Voice, Inmarsat's general manager of safety services, Brian Mullan, warns that some shipowners and operators may be leaving it late to comply with the LRIT requirements.

Security code

Any vessel wishing to trade with the US after December 2008 will have to meet the requirements, which were introduced as a condition of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code, established in 2004 following the events of 9/11 and the bombings of the vessels USS Cole and Limburg.

Meanwhile, maritime equipment manufacturer Thrane & Thrane has announced the launch in July of a dedicated LRIT transceiver to help users meet compliance.

The Inmarsat Mini C-based product, the Sailor TT-3000LRIT, enables LRIT reporting where some GMDSS or Ship Security Alert Systems (SSAS) may not.

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