

Reminder for LRIT's December deadline

07 December 2008

A reminder courtesy of Hill Dickinson Legal Services, for anyone in the superyacht industry affected by the Long-Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT) and introduction of regulation V/19-1 to SOLAS Chapter V, the deadline for compliance is December 31st. This principally applies to charter and commercial yachts over 300 GRT.

The Long-Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT) system was created due to a desire to enhance maritime security after the terrorist attacks in the USA in 2001.

It is an initiative that provides for the global tracking and identification of ships and is effected through the introduction of regulation V/19-1 to SOLAS Chapter V (Safety of Navigation). The regulation will require ships automatically to transmit their identity, position and the date and time of that position. It will allow administrations to receive reports from ships flying their flag, irrespective of where these ships are located and contracting governments to obtain position reports from any ships entering their port facilities or navigating in their territorial waters.

The deadline for compliance is 31 December 2008 and applies to the following ships engaged on international voyages:

- Passenger ships, including high-speed passenger craft;
- Cargo ships, including high-speed craft, of 300 GRT and upwards; and
- Mobile offshore drilling units

Note that all yachts over 300GRT which are in commercial use must also comply.

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