



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-195

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Albrook, Panama City
Republic of Panama
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To: Ship-owners/Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates and Recognized Organizations (RO).

Subject: Long-Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT)

References: IMO Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention, Chapter V, Reg. 19-1
IMO Maritime Safety Committee Resolution MSC.202(81)
IMO Maritime Safety Committee Resolution MSC.263(84)
IMO Maritime Safety Committee Circular MSC.1/Circ.1295
IMO Maritime Safety Committee Circular MSC.1/Circ.1296
Resolution 106-38-DGMM of September 09, 2008

Introduction

- 1.The *Maritime Safety Committee* (MSC) of the *International Maritime Organization* (IMO) has adopted Resolution MSC.202(81); amending SOLAS V/ 19-1 to include the *Long-Range Identification and Tracking* system for ships (LRIT).
- 2.LRIT requirements entered into force internationally on 1-January-2008 with compliance dates for shipowners beginning 1-January-2009.

Applicability and Requirements

- 3.LRIT requirements apply to the following ships engaged on international voyages:
 - All passenger ships including high speed craft; and
 - Cargo ships, including high speed craft of 300 gross tonnage and above; and
 - Mobile offshore drilling units.
4. LRIT Shipborne equipment must be capable of being configured to transmit the following minimum information automatically, at reporting intervals from 15 minutes to 6 hours, to the LRIT Data Center designated by the Flag Administration:
 - The identity of the ship;
 - The position of the ship; and
 - The date and time of the position.

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5. Applicable ships are generally required to be compliant not later than the first date of radio survey after 1-January-2009. Refer to MSC 202(81) for specific guidance based on the date of construction and operating area(s) of the ship.
6. **The Panamanian ships will not be charged for the costs of LRIT transmissions.**

Procedure for Shipborne LRIT Equipment Testing

7. The *Panama Maritime Authority* (AMP), by Resolution 106-38-DGMM issued 09-September-2008, adopts MSC.1/Circ.1257 (amended by MCS.1/Circ.1296) as the relevant standard (*Guidance on the Survey and Certification of Compliance of Ships with the Requirement to Transmit LRIT Information*).
8. Shipborne equipment used for LRIT shall, after passing a Conformance Test conducted by an authorized ASP, be considered as an approved type in accordance with SOLAS V/19-1, MSC.263(84) and MSC.1/Circ.1296. There will be a charge by the Testing ASP directly to shipowners for the Conformance Test and LRIT Conformance Certificate.
9. To ensure timely compliance, and provide adequate opportunity for shipowners to upgrade equipment, shipowners must request an LRIT Conformance Test as soon as possible.
10. Although the majority of Panama registered ships are equipped with LRIT compatible Inmarsat-C equipment, a small percentage may not conform to the *LRIT Performance Standards* for a range of operational, physical and technical reasons. Shipowners and masters are therefore advised to take early action by consulting with equipment manufacturers to ensure their shipborne LRIT equipment is fully compliant with the requirements of MSC.263(84) and MSC.1/Circ.1296.

Communications Service Providers (CSP) for Panama Registered Ships

11. Shipowners may operate LRIT shipborne equipment preferably with the following Communication Service Providers (CSP). In all cases the shipborne equipment must still be tested pursuant to MSC.1/Circ.1296 to confirm correct operation:
 - Inmarsat-C (provides coverage for sea areas A1, A2, A3)
 - Inmarsat-D (provides coverage for sea areas A1, A2, A3)
 - Iridium (provides coverage for sea areas A1, A2, A3, A4)

Application Service Provider (ASP) for Panama Registered Ships

12. The General Directorate of Merchant Marine, through Resolution No. 106-38-DGMM of September 9, 2008, establishes that the following companies have been approved by this Administration to temporally act as testing Application Service Providers (ASPs) until 31 December 2008, to help ship owners and operators to do the test prior the entry into force as

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per the decision of MSC 84 and to perform the conformance test onboard Panamanian flagged vessels according to what is established in MSC.1/Circ.1257 (amended by MCS.1/Circ.1296)

List of temporally approved conformance testing Application Service Providers:

- **POLE STAR SPACE APPLICATIONS**
- **PSC HOLDING S.A. / ABSOLUTE SOFTWARE INC.**
- **TRANSAS TELEMATICS**
- **FULCRUM MARITIME SYSTEMS LTD.**

13. This Administration also informs the users that an International bid has been carried out with the purpose of choosing a single Application Service Provider and the establishment of a National Data Centre. The above mentioned tender has been awarded to **POLE STAR SPACE APPLICATIONS**.
14. After 01 January 2009 a single Application Service Provider (ASPs) will act as the testing Application Service Provider (ASPs) for this Administration and as ASPs. However, the certificates issued before 01 January 2009 by this four (4) temporally ASPs will remain valid.
15. **The four (4) mandatory messages per day and the polling requests will be paid by the Administration with no charge to the ship owners.**
16. Panama has appointed the following company as the only Recognized ASP:

POLE STAR SPACE APPLICATIONS
2nd Floor, The Yellow Building, 1 Nicholas Road,
London W11 4AN, United Kingdom
Telephone: + 44 (0)2073137400
Fax: +44 (0)20 7313 7401
Email : activations@absolutemaritime.com;
support@polestarglobal.com;
ivan.villamizar@polestarglobal.com;
john.ramsauer@polestarglobal.com

National Data Center (NDC) for Panama Registered Ships

17. All Panama registered ships will send data to the Panama *National Data Centre* (NDC), via the Recognized ASP. AMP has appointed the following company to operate the Panama NDC on its behalf:

POLE STAR SPACE APPLICATIONS
2nd Floor, The Yellow Building, 1 Nicholas Road,

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Telephone: + 44 (0)2073137400
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Email : activations@absolutemaritime.com;
support@polestarglobal.com;
ivan.villamizar@polestarglobal.com;
john.ramsauer@polestarglobal.com

Configuring Shipborne Equipment

18. The following guidance is provided to assist ship owners and masters with determining suitability of existing equipment for LRIT. This information is not intended to be exhaustive of all possible configurations, is subject to change and may contain errors as it is supplied by manufacturers and other third parties.
19. For Inmarsat-C shipborne equipment; the make and model of equipment may be determined using the first six digits of the Inmarsat Serial Number (ISN). If the equipment appears to be LRIT capable; the following steps should be taken:
- Contact the manufacturer to confirm that the shipborne equipment has current software/firmware versions; and
 - Ensure that Polling & Data Reporting (PDR) functions are enabled; and
 - Ensure that Macro Encoded Message 11 (MEM-11) is enabled.

Shipborne Equipment Guide

For information on specific models please contact the Recognized ASP at activations@absolutemaritime.com; support@polestarglobal.com; ivan.villamizar@polestarglobal.com; john.ramsauer@polestarglobal.com or at the 24 x 7 support center at +507-301-5748.

May 2017 – Update ASP and NDC name, physical address and contact details

July – 2014 – Update of email address

April – 2012 – Update of email address

August - 2009 – Addition of two CSP and changes in contact information

December - 2008

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular or any request should be directed to:

General Directorate of Merchant Marine

Panama Maritime Authority

P.O. Box 5245 Panama 5

Republic of Panama

Tel: +507 501-5010

Fax: +507 501-5011

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