



**PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY**  
**Directorate General of Merchant Marine**  
Segumar Panama

**Merchant Marine Circular No. 155**

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**To: Owners/Operators of Panamanian Ships, Recognized Organizations and Consulates**

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**Subject: AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AIS)**

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**Reference:** Decree Law No. 7, SOLAS 74 as amended, IMO Resolution A. 694(17), IMO Resolution A. 917(22), Resolution MSC.74 (69), Resolution MSC.99 (73), Resolution A.917 (22), Resolution A 956(23) and SOLAS/CONF.5/32, SN/Circ.227 and MSC.1/Circ.1252

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1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to inform all parties concerned with Panamanian flag ships of the approved guidelines adopted for annual testing of the Automatic Identification System.
2. The Panama Maritime Authority has decided to implement these guidelines since the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2008, with the purpose to determine if AIS is operational as defined by IMO performance standards.
3. The annual test of the Automatic Identification System (AIS) should be carried out by a qualified Radio technician; authorized by the Administration or by a Recognized Organization.
4. The annual test can be done:
  1. up to 3 months before the due date of the passenger ship safety certificate renewal survey or the cargo ship safety equipment certificate renewal survey; and
  2. 3 months before or after the due date of the cargo ship safety equipment certificate periodical/annual survey (the maximum period between subsequent tests is governed by the time window associated to the subsequent surveys, unless either certificate has been extended as permitted by SOLAS regulation I/14, in which case a similar extension may be granted by the Administration).
5. The annual test will be recorded on the form from the Model Report referring to the test included on the Appendix of this Circular. Also this form will be available for all Port State Control Inspectors and Panamanian Flag Inspectors.

6. The annual testing of the AIS installation should include:

1. installation details including antenna layout, initial configuration report, interconnection diagrams, provision of the pilot plug and power supply arrangements;
2. checking the correct programming of the ships static information;
3. the ability of the AIS to receive ships dynamic information from the appropriate sensors;
4. the ability to correctly input the ships voyage related data;
5. a performance test of the equipment including radio frequency measurements; and
6. an on-air test proving that the unit is working correctly using for example an appropriate Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) station or a suitable test equipment.

**March 18, 2008**

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

Panama Maritime Authority  
General Directorate of Merchant Marine  
P.O. Box 5245 Panama 5  
Republic of Panama

Tel: (507) 501-5010  
Fax: (507)501-5011