

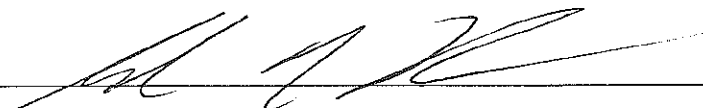
DMA Class Circular no.: 07/2008

Category: Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT)

DMA reference:

Date: 30 September 2008

Approved by: Erik I. Tvedt



Subject: Implementation of LRIT (Long-range identification and tracking of ships) on vessels flying the Danish flag

Rule reference:

SOLAS Chap. V, Reg. 19.1

Notice B from the DMA, Reg. 19.1

Explanatory note:

Guidance on the implementation of LRIT on vessels flying the Danish flag.

LRIT data centre

The latest information from the EU is that the joint European LRIT data centre at the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) in Lisbon, Portugal, is expected to be operational by mid-2009. This means that vessels from EU member states, including Danish ones, will not be able to submit LRIT data until after mid-2009. This date could be after the date of the vessel's mandatory radio survey. Irrespective of the above, a vessel must be equipped to transmit LRIT data at the mandatory radio survey to be held in 2009. The equipment must have been subjected to an approved testing procedure (see below).

At the Maritime Safety Committee session held in May 2008, the IMO has adopted the enclosed MSC Circular 1256 concerning the implementation of LRIT. The circular takes into account the difficulties which may arise during the implementation phase of LRIT, for example that the member states must not impose sanctions on vessels that are not able to transmit the required LRIT data without any fault on their behalf. Reference is made to section 11 in the circular.

It is of the utmost importance that the vessel is ready to transmit LRIT data from the required date and that the vessel is able to document that the equipment on board has been subjected to the below test.

Testing of equipment

Equipment that has already been approved, for example Inmarsat-C, does not have to be type-approved again; however, the equipment carried by each individual vessel must be subjected to an electronic test (conformance test), which is also described in the enclosed MSC Circular 1257 on Survey and Certification.

The conformance test lasts approximately 30 hours and must be held at the earliest 3 months before the radio survey.

The test must be performed by a so-called testing Application Service Provider (ASP), approved by the flag State. Until now, the Danish Maritime Authority has approved the following companies for these conformance tests: **Thrane & Thrane, Pole Star and Transas**. Information about approved companies will be published on the webpage www.dma.dk under the following link http://www.sofartsstyrelsen.dk/graphics/Synkron-Library/Sofartsstyrelsen/autorisationer/26_lrit.pdf as soon as possible.

The ship owners must therefore contact an authorised company for performing a test on each individual vessel, bearing in mind that the test must not be carried out until 3 months prior to the radio survey for 2009 at the earliest.

After the test has been approved, the Service Provider (ASP) will issue a certificate as documentation of LRIT compliance.

The aforementioned “live” test of the LRIT system will not be completed in 2008. Any ship owner who is interested in participating in such a test will be contacted directly at a later stage.

Coding of address

The vessel’s LRIT equipment must be coded with an address (IP-address) showing where the LRIT data is to be transmitted. The IP-address to be used by Danish vessels is not yet known. The IP-address is expected to be known in early 2009, when the Danish Maritime Authority will inform accordingly.

When the IP-address is known and has been published, it must be coded into the equipment. The DMA recommends that the shipowners clarify in connection with the testing how this should be done and whether it can be done “remotely” and without the help of a technician, and that the shipowners make the necessary preparations.

The ship database at EMSA

The Danish Maritime Authority will report information to EMSA about the Danish vessels that must meet the LRIT requirements.

Action required:

The ROs are requested to update their country file/checklists for Danish flagged vessels accordingly.

For questions to the above, please contact:

The Danish Maritime Authority, Class Society Secretariat, css@dma.dk