

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF MERCANTILE MARINE,
THE AEGEAN AND ISLAND POLICY
BRANCHES: Γ' - Δ'
DIRECTORATES OF MARITIME SAFETY
AND SHIP INSPECTIONS (ΔΑΝ-ΔΕΠ)

Postal Address: K. Palaiologou 1 & Kolokotroni
Post Code: 185 35, Piraeus
Telephone: 210 4191744 – 210 4191947
Fax: 210 4137997
Email: dan@yen.gr, telecoms@yen.gr

Piraeus, September 5, 2008
Ref. No.: 3233.2/50/2008

TO: AS PER DISTRIBUTION TABLE

CIRCULAR L.R.I.T. No. 2

SUBJECT: "Implementation of Long Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT) on Greek merchant ships."

RE:

- a) IMO Resolution MSC 202(81)/19-05-2006: "Adoption of amendments to the international convention for safety of life at sea, 1974, as amended".
- b) IMO Resolution MSC 211(81)/19-05-2006: Arrangements for the timely establishment of the long-range identification and tracking (LRIT) system".
- c) IMO Resolution MSC 263(84)/16-05-2008: "Revised performance Standards and functional requirements for the LRIT of ships".
- d) IMO Resolution MSC 264(84)/16-05-2008: "Establishment of International LRIT Data Exchange (IDE) on an interim basis".
- e) IMO Circular MSC.1/CIRC.1256/05-06-2008: "Guidance on the implementation of the LRIT system".
- f) IMO Circular MSC.1/CIRC.1257/05.06.2008: "Guidance on the survey and certification of compliance of ships with the requirement to transmit LRIT information".

1. GENERAL

Our circular with Ref. No. 4341.8/01/2007/24-12/2007 made you aware of the new requirements of the amendments to the international convention for safety of life at sea 1974, regarding the introduction of the Long Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT) system on merchant ships, along with the relevant deadlines for their implementation.

2. TRANSMITTED INFORMATION

2.1 THE LRIT information that ships will transmit through the relevant equipment includes:

- The ship's identity

- The ship's position
- The date and time of position.

2.2 The system design includes security keys for ensuring the confidentiality of this information.

3. MINISTRY OF SHIPPING OBLIGATIONS

3.1 By decision of the European Union council, a European Data Centre, operated by the EMSA, will be established in order to receive and manage LRIT information from ships sailing under the flag of European/ EU member states, in accordance with the system's design. Details on the operation of the E.D.C. and related implementation services provider will be announced in the future.

3.2 All Greek ships required to transmit LRIT information will transmit, at no cost to the ship itself, the required LRIT information to the European Data Centre, through an accredited provider that will be established in future by the European Commission.

3.3 The Ministry of Shipping will provide the aforementioned Centre with an up-to-date list of Greek ships required to transmit LRIT information, which will include the following data:

- Name of ship
- IMO Ship Identification Number
- Call Sign
- Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI)

3.4 LRIT information on Greek ships will be available at the Ministry of Shipping and will be released only upon request to IMO member states that are entitled to receive it.

4. SHIPOWNER OBLIGATIONS

4.1 The shipowner is obliged to ensure the timely and correct installation of LRIT transmission equipment or, if required, the timely modification of the ship's existing and previously installed Inmarsat-C satellite equipment. In all cases, the timely execution of a Conformance Test is mandatory, according to Circular (f).

4.2 Please note that the timely execution of the test in question is necessary in order, on one hand, to test the conformance of the ship's equipment with LRIT requirements and, on the other hand, to register every Greek ship in the European database.

4.3 The results of the Conformance test will be in the format described in Annexes 1 and 2 of Circular (f), and will be communicated **as soon as possible** to the Ministry

of Shipping and the Notified Body that issues the ship's governmental certificates. The test results in question will also be kept on the ship, and made available to inspectors, as required.

5. APPROVAL FOR THE USE OF NEW LRIT EQUIPMENT

5.1 The new equipment for LRIT information transmission installed on ships sailing under the Greek flag must:

- Meet the technical and functional requirements of Resolution (c)
- Meet the test requirements of the IEC 60945 Standard, with regards to environmental tests (humidity, vibration, etc)
- Meet the Conformance test requirements of (f)
- be approved by the MOS Branch for the Control of Merchant Vessels or an Organisation accredited by the Ministry of Shipping, as long as the services it has been authorised for include approving shipbuilding materials and media.

5.2 In order to obtain approval for the use of the equipment in question on ships sailing under the Greek flag, and until the incorporation of LRIT information transmission equipment in Annex A1 of EU Directive 96/98/EC, the following documentation will be submitted to the MOS Branch for the Control of Merchant Vessels or the Notified Body:

- Application
- Certificate of equipment type approval from the country of manufacture or an European Union country.
- Certificate of Conformance testing, in accordance with Circular (f)
- Full technical file on the device, including technical and functional tests performed by a test lab accredited by the country's relevant Authorities.

6. INSTALLING NEW EQUIPMENT OR ADAPTING EXISTING EQUIPMENT

The following must be taken into account during the installation of new LRIT information transmission equipment or the adaptation of the ship's existing INMARSAT-C equipment to transmit LRIT information:

- The manufacturer's Instructions
- The relevant requirements of (c) and (f), and
- Circular IMO Comsar/Circ.32, which was incorporated into national legislation by Ministerial Decision 4113.223/01/2006/8-8-2006 (Government Gazette 1446) (regarding the installation of Inmarsat system satellite communications equipment terminals, including general requirements, antenna installation, and electromagnetic compatibility, grounding and wire insulation requirements).

7. CONFORMANCE TEST

7.1 Conformance tests on ships will be performed in accordance with the requirements of (f), by Authorised Testing Application Service Providers.

7.2 At present, the Ministry of Shipping has authorised the following companies to perform Conformance tests upon Greek ships:

- "POLE STAR SPACE APPLICATIONS LTD"
- "TRANSAS TELEMATICS LTD"

Which are registered in the United Kingdom and legally represented in Greece.

7.3 Additional service providers who are granted authorisation by the MOS will be made known to you immediately through a new circular.

8. ACTIONS

8.1 You are requested to inform your members accordingly.

8.2 Ship management companies are requested to take the above into account and take all action necessary for the timely compliance of ships under their management.

8.3 Notified Bodies in receipt of the present document are requested to take the above into account and take all action necessary for its timely implementation on all ships they inspect and issue with governmental certificates.

8.4 "POLE STAR SPACE APPLICATIONS LTD" and TRANSAS TELEMATICS LTD", to which the present document is forwarded, are obliged to submit immediately to the Ministry of Shipping the conformance test reports on the first 10 tests they each perform on Greek ships, in accordance with the terms of circular MSC.1/CIRC.1257.

THE DIRECTOR,

[Signed]

Vice-Admiral, Marine Corps, RENTZEPERIS TH.

TRUE COPY

The Secretary,

[Signed]

PAVLOU PANAGIOTIS

Sub-Lieutenant, Marine Corps

(Seal of the Hellenic Republic, Ministry of Shipping)