

Subject

Notice from Panama Marine Authority

ClassNK

Technical Information

No. TEC-0734
Date 29 May 2008

To whom it may concern

Panama Marine Authority has given notice to ClassNK of the following matters by Merchant Marine Circulars as summarized below.

1. Annual Test of AIS

As from 1 June 2008, IMO MSC.1/Circ.1252 "Guidelines on Annual Testing of the Automatic Identification System(AIS)" is applied to Panamanian flag ships.

At periodical SE surveys on or after 1 June 2008, ClassNK confirms completion of an annual test of AIS by an "AIS Test Report".

Panamanian flag ships are requested:

- to carry out annual test of AIS in accordance with the Guidelines by a qualified radio inspector of an approved radio firm, and
- to retain the "AIS Test Report" issued by the radio firm on board the ship.

For further details, please refer to Merchant Marine Circular No. 155 attached.

2. Registration of EPIRB ID

SOLAS Reg.IV/5-1 defines that each contracting government undertakes to register GMDSS IDs so as to make information on these IDs available to rescue co-ordination centres on a 24-hour basis.

In this connection, the Panama Marine Authority requests owners and operators of Panamanian flag ships to register EPIRB IDs of their Panamanian flag ships in the Cospas-Sarsat* International Registration Database. The Database is available on URL:

<https://www.406registration.com/>

For further details, please refer to Merchant Marine Circular No. 158 attached.

* Cospas-Sarsat : International organization managing and operating satellite systems for Sat-EPIRBs.

3. Annual Performance Test of VDR/S-VDR

Annual performance test of VDR/S-VDR is defined in regulation V/18.8 of SOLAS Convention as amended and has been carried out in accordance with the regulation.

The Panama Marine Authority announced that IMO MSC.1/Circ.1222 "Guidelines on Annual Testing of Voyage Data Recorders (VDR) and Simplified Voyage Data Recorders (S-VDR)" was applied to Panamanian flag ships.

Hereafter, at periodical SE surveys, ClassNK confirms completion of an annual performance test of VDR/S-VDR by a "Test Report"* issued by a manufacturer of VDR/S-VDR.

(To be continued)

NOTES:

- ClassNK Technical Information is provided only for the purpose of supplying current information to its readers.
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- Back numbers are available on ClassNK Internet Homepage (URL: www.classnk.or.jp).

In case where the “Test Report” is not in time of the SE survey, ClassNK confirms completion of the annual performance test by a checklist made by a qualified engineer of an approved VDR performance test firm.

For further details, please refer to Merchant Marine Circular No. 161 attached.

* Test Report is issued based on a checklist made by a qualified engineer of an approved VDR performance test firm.

For any questions about the above, please contact:

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Attachment:

1. Merchant Marine Circular No.155 “Automatic Identification System (AIS)”
2. Merchant Marine Circular No.158 “EPIRB Registration”
3. Merchant Marine Circular No.161 “Voyage Data Recorder (VDR) and Simplified Voyage Data Recorder (S-VDR)”



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
Directorate General of Merchant Marine
Segumar Panama

Merchant Marine Circular No. 155

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

Subject: AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AIS)

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

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 1st 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



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
Directorate General of Merchant Marine
Segumar Panama

Merchant Marine Circular No. 158

To: Owners/Operators of Panamanian Ships, Recognized Organizations and masters.

Subject: EPIRB Registration

**Reference: Decree Law No. 7, 1998
IMO Resolution A. 887(21)**

1. The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, Chapter IV, Regulation 5-1, establishes that each Contracting Government undertakes to ensure that suitable arrangements are made for registering Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) identities and for making information on these identities available to rescue coordination centers on a 24-hour basis.
2. IMO Resolution A. 887(21) adopts the Recommendations on the Establishment, Updating and Retrieval of the Information contained in the Registration Database for the GMDSS, which should include the EPIRB identification code.
3. Beacon registration is essential for efficient SAR operations, and proper registration of a beacon can make the difference between success and failure of a search and rescue mission.
4. With the purpose to assist States in the responsibility of beacon registration, Cospas-Sarsat implemented an International 406 MHz Beacon Registration Database in January 2006. This database allows users to register their beacons and provide information that can be of great use to SAR services in the event of beacon activation. SAR services are able to query the International Registration Database directly over the Internet.
5. From February 2009 the Cospas-Sarsat Satellite System will no longer process the 121.5 MHz frequency and users could be denied Cospas-Sarsat services if they do not make the transition to 406 MHz EPIRBs before 2009.

6. Taking in consideration the information above, this Administration encourages owners of Panamanian flag vessels to register their beacons in the Cospas-Sarsat International Registration Database. This service is entirely free of charge and is available online at www.406registration.org. For additional information, consult Cospas-Sarsat via email at mail@cospas-sarsat.int or look under the Beacons tab at www.cospas-sarsat.org.

March 2008

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

Directorate General of Merchant Marine

Panama Maritime Authority

Phone: (507) 501-5033

Fax: (507) 501-5083



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
Directorate General of Merchant Marine
Segumar Panama

Merchant Marine Circular No. 161

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

Subject: Voyage Data Recorder (VDR) and Simplified Voyage Data Recorder (S-VDR) annual test.

Reference: Decree Law No. 7, SOLAS regulation V/20, SOLAS regulation V/18.8, IMO Resolution A.861(20) MSC.163(78) MSC.1/Circ.1222

1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to communicate all parties concerned with Panamanian flag ships, of the approved guidelines adopted with the purpose of having a standard method for the annual testing of the VDR and S-VDR.
2. The requirements for VDR and S-VDR systems to be subject of an annual testing has been approved by the revision of SOLAS Regulation V/20 and established by Regulation V/18.8. as amended.
3. The purpose of an annual performance test is to determine that a VDR/S-VDR is operational as defined in the manufacturer's specification.
4. The annual test for the VDR and S-VDR will be carried out by the manufacturer or a person authorized by the manufacturer.
5. The annual testing of the VDR and S-VDR should include:
 1. Confirmation that no alarms are present prior to the initiation of the test;
 2. Confirmation that when the external power is removed, the power supply alarm is activated, the equipment continues to operate for at least 1 hours and 55 minutes and automatically stops recording no later than 2 hours 5 minutes after the external power is removed;
 3. Confirmation that the acoustic beacon is functional using the appropriate manufacturer's test equipment or by the substitution of a certified fully operational unit;

4. Confirmation that the overall condition of the equipment is satisfactory and that any battery within the equipment (acoustic beacon and power supply) is not expired;
 5. Confirmation that accurate maintenance records of the VDR are available;
 6. Confirmation that the items to be recorded, specifically those data items available and required to be recorded at the time of original commissioning as defined in resolution A.861(20) and resolution MSC.163(78) for VDR and S-VDR respectively, are satisfactorily stored for the duration of the 12-hour recording period;
 7. Confirmation that the capsule float-free arrangements, where required or fitted, are satisfactory as originally accepted at commissioning; and that any battery, release mechanism or other items are within their expiry date; and,
 8. Confirmation that the equipment is restored to normal operation mode following completion of the tests.
6. The annual test may be carried out:
1. Up to 3 months before the due date of the passenger ship and 3 months before or after the due date of a cargo ship. (The maximum period between subsequent checks is, therefore, 15 months for passenger ships and 18 months for cargo ships, unless either certificate has been extended as permitted by SOLAS regulation I/14, in which case a similar extension may be granted.). The manufacturer must complete a review, record any changes and issue the completed test report within 45 days. To accommodate performance checks to align with the appropriate survey under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC).
 7. The annual test will be registered on the form from the Model Report about the test that figures on the Appendix of this Circular. A copy of the report from the test will remain on board of the vessel. Also these forms will be available for all Port State Control Inspectors and Panamanian Flag Inspectors

March 2008

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

Panama Maritime Authority Tel: (507) 501-5010
General Directorate of Merchant Marine Fax: (507)501-5011
P.O. Box 5245 Panama 5
Republic of Panama

Appendix - Voyage Data Recorder Performance Test Report

. Note - Insert **Yes** for success, **No** for failure or **N/A** for non fitted interfaces in these boxes, as appropriate.

											Yes	No	N/A
Ship's details													
Ship's name													
Flag													
IMO number													
Date keel laid													
Gross tonnage													
Voyage data recorder details													
Manufacturer													
Model													
System serial number													
Software version number													
Date fitted													
Inspection Details													
Name person conduction testing													
Company													
Inspection date													
Inspection location													
1 Pre-existing alarms													
Confirm that no alarms were present at start of procedure													
2 Power supply alarm check													
Remove source of external power. Confirm that alarm is activated.													
Record time (hh.mm)													

3 Reserve power source check							
Allow VDR to continue running for 1 hour 55 minutes from '2' above							
Confirm that equipment is still operating at this time, with no additional alarms.							
Record time (hh.mm)							
4 Reserve power source shutdown check							
2 hours 05 minutes from '2' above confirm that the VDR has automatically stopped recording.							
Record time (hh.mm)							
5 Battery expiry dates							
Battery	Expiry date (where applicable)						
Acoustic beacon							
Reserve power source							
6 Acoustic beacon test							
Using manufacturer's test equipment confirm that acoustic beacon is functional or by the substitution of a certified fully operational unit.							
7 Overall condition of equipment							
Inspect equipment and record condition, thickness if satisfactory							
Sub unit	Notes on condition						
Protective capsule							
External cables							
Main unit							
8 Interfaces: Operation and recording							
Date and time	Perferably external to ship (e.g. Global Navigation Satellite System.)						
Ship's position	Electronic Positioning system						
Speed (through water or over ground)	Ship's designated speed and distance measuring equipment						
Heading	Ship's compass						
Bridge audio	1 or more bridge microphones						
Communications Audio	VHF						
Radar data-post display selection	Master radar display						

Water depth	Echo sounder								
Main alarms	All mandatory alarms on bridge								
Rudder order and response	Steering gear and autopilot								
Engine order and response	Telegraphs, controls and thrusters								
Hull openings status	All mandatory status information displayed on bridge								
Watertight and fire door status	All mandatory status information displayed on bridge								
Acceleration and hull stresses	Hull stress and response monitoring equipment where fitted								
Wind speed and direction	Anemometer where fitted								
9 Change or repair of sensors									
Check maintenance records of VDR									
Confirm any defects properly rectified									
Person authorized by the Manufacturer							Ship's representative		
Date							Date		
If the manufacturer does not complete a review and issue a completed test report within 45 days, this test report should go forward for certification.									
10 Manufacturer's analysis									
Note - This confirms the endorsement by the manufacturer of the tests and that the master record/database has been checked.									
Manufacturer's analysis of 12-hour log is attached and in accordance with International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) 61996 Maritime navigation and radiocommunication equipment and systems – Shipborne voyage data recorder (VDR) performance requirements – Methods of testing and required test results section 4.6 – Data items to be recorded (resolution A.861(20), section 5.4). Confirmation that all data is available throughout the 12-hour recording.									
Date and time of above log.									
11 Observations and additional manufacturer's requirements									
Note - This specifically provides for the logging of significant									

<p>events that may have occurred on board since the previous test, including the refitting of equipment or major unit change to existing equipment. – Any or all of which may have an impact on the availability or quality of the VDR/S-VDR input signal.</p>								
<p>This performance test was conducted in accordance with SOLAS <u>regulation V/18.8</u> and forms part of the procedure for the issue of the Annual Performance Test Certificate. The results, information and any comments should be relayed to the manufacturer in accordance with the instructions contained within the Operation Manual. Subject to satisfactory results, an Annual Performance Test Certificate will then be issued.</p>								
<p>In accordance with the principles of harmonization of Certificates, the Certificate, when issued, will remain valid until the next annual re-validation of that Certificate, subject to the equipment being maintained in appropriate operational condition.</p>								