



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

Merchant Marine Circular No. 195

To: Shipowners, Operators, Masters and Officers of Panamanian flagged vessels, Recognized Organizations

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.1257**

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.

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 ship will not be charged for the costs of LRIT transmissions. Costs will be borne by SOLAS Contracting Governments entitled to receive and use LRIT data.

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 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.1257. 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.1257.

Communications Service Providers (CSP) for Panama Registered Ships

11. Shipowners may operate LRIT shipborne equipment preferably with the following equipment. In all cases the shipborne equipment must still be tested pursuant to MSC.1/Circ.1257 to confirm correct operation:
 - Inmarsat-C (provides coverage for sea areas A1, A2, A3)

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 temporarily act as testing Application Service Providers (ASPs) and to perform the conformance test onboard Panamanian flagged vessels according to what is established in MSC.1/Circ.1257.

List of temporally approved conformance testing Application Service Providers:

- **POLE STAR SPACE APPLICATION LIMITES**
- **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 **ABSOLUTE MARITIME TRACKING SERVICES INC.**

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. Panama has appointed the following company as the only Recognized ASP:

ABSOLUTE MARITIME TRACKING SERVICES, INC
Po Box 0816-02168
Panama, Republic of Panama
Telephone: +507 225-5726 or +507 225-1142
Fax : +507 225-1203
Email : activations@panama-lrit.com

National Data Center (NDC) for Panama Registered Ships

16. 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:

ABSOLUTE MARITIME TRACKING SERVICES, INC

Apartado 0816-02168

Panama, Republic of Panama

Telephone: +507 225-5726 or +507 225-1142

Fax : +507 225-1203

Email : lrit@panama-lrit.com

Configuring Shipborne Equipment

17. 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.
18. 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

19. The following table includes the most common Inmarsat-C models and approved devices for other *Communications Service Providers* (CSPs). For information on models not shown; contact the Recognized ASP or your shipborne equipment manufacturer:

CSP	ISN	Manufacturer	Model (*)	LRIT Capable	Note
Inmarsat-C	4FE088xxxxxx	Furuno	MINI-C FELCOM 16	YES	1
Inmarsat-C	4FE060xxxxxx	Furuno	FELCOM 15	YES	1
Inmarsat-C	4FE050xxxxxx	Furuno	FELCOM 12	YES	2
Inmarsat-C	4FE030xxxxxx	Furuno	FELCOM 11	YES	2
Inmarsat-C	4IM010xxxxxx	Intermarine	INTERMARINE IME7001	YES	2
Inmarsat-C	4JR140xxxxxx	Japan Radio Corporation	JUE-85	YES	2
Inmarsat-C	4JR110xxxxxx	Japan Radio Corporation	JUE-75C	YES	3
Inmarsat-C	4JR040xxxxxx	Japan Radio Corporation	JUE-75A	NO	-
Inmarsat-C	4RA020xxxxxx	Raytheon	STR 1500C	NO	-

