

Merchant Marine Circular

Panama Maritime Authority
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Control and Compliance Department

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-195

To: Ship-owners/Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates and Recognized Organizations (RO).

Subject: Long Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT)

Reference: Law No. 7 of October 27, 1977.
Resolution MSC.202(81) of May 19, 2006, SOLAS Convention, Chapter V, Reg. 19-1, amendments on Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT), adopted by Resolution No. 106-OMI-06-DGMM of November 26, 2007.

Recommendatory only:

Resolution MSC.263(84) adopted on 16 May 2008, revised performance standards and functional requirements for the Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) of Ships.

Circular MSC.1/Circ.1295 of December 8, 2008, Guidance in relation to certain types of ships which are required to transmit LRIT information, on exemptions and equivalents and on certain operation matters.

Circular MSC.1/Circ.1296 of December 8, 2008, Guidance on the survey and certification of compliance of ships with the requirement to transmit LRIT information.

1- This Merchant Marine Circular replaces **MMC-197** and **MMC-249**.

2- Introduction

2.1 The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has adopted Resolution MSC.202(81) of May 19, 2006; amending SOLAS V/19-1 to include the Long-Range Identification and Tracking system for ships (LRIT).

2.2 LRIT requirements entered into force internationally on January 1, 2008 with compliance dates for ship-owners beginning January 1, 2009.



Merchant Marine Circular

2.3 All Panamanian flagged vessels under SOLAS V/19-1 regulation must comply with LRIT requirements.

3- Applicability, Requirements and Guidelines

3.1 LRIT requirements apply to the following ships engaged on international voyages:

3.1.1 All passenger ships including high speed craft; and

3.1.2 Cargo ships, including high speed craft of 300 gross tonnage and above; and

3.1.3 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:

4.1 The identity of the ship

4.2 The position of the ship; and

4.3 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 January 1, 2009. Refer to Resolution MSC.202(81) of May 19, 2006 for specific guidance based on the date of construction and operating area(s) of the ship.

6- Taking into consideration that radio equipment on board of some Panamanian flagged vessels may not conform to the LRIT Performance Standards, and that some vessels can confront some delays in order to carry out satisfactory the conformance test, this Administration can, in a case by case basis, grant authorizations in the following way:

6.1 In those cases where the vessel is undergoing the radio survey, and does not have onboard a Conformance Test Certificate, but the Recognized Organization confirms that there is evidence that the Recognized ASP has initiated the testing, the Recognized Organization could issue a Conditional Safety Equipment Certificate valid for three months, without previous authorization from the Segumar Office; but must submit, without delay, a copy of the Conditional Certificate together with the supporting documentation to Segumar Office.



Merchant Marine Circular

6.2 In cases where the vessel has the radio survey, and already complete the conformance test, but the equipment onboard does not comply with the LRIT performance standards, this Administration shall grant an authorization to the Recognized Organization to issue a Conditional Safety Certificate valid for three months, this will allow the vessel more time to obtain the new equipment. The request to issue conditional certificates shall be supported with evidence that the vessel has already requested the new equipment.

6.3 Under no circumstances the Recognized Organization shall issue a full term Safety Equipment Certificate if the vessel does not have onboard a Conformance Test Certificate.

Note: In case the vessel does not have the Conformance Test completed or a Conditional Certificate issued by the Administration, the Recognized Organization shall notify immediately to the Application Service Provider (ASP), in order to complete the activation process and ensure that the equipment is properly reporting:

**CONSORCIO ABSOLUTE MARITIME TRACKING SERVICES INC/
POLESTAR SPACE APPLICATIONS LTD.**

2nd Floor, the Yellow Building, 1 Nicholas Road,
London W11 4AN, United Kingdom

Telephone: + 44 2073137400

Fax: +44 20 7313 7401

Email: support@polestarglobal.com; activations@polestarglobal.com

Otherwise Segumar Offices should be informed accordingly emailing conditionals@segumar.com, in case a Conditional Certificate is needed.

6.4 All Panamanian flagged vessels transiting High Risk Areas with or without privately contracted armed security personnel onboard must ensure that equipment is correctly programmed in order to comply with the Best Management Practices (BMP), as well as liaising communication with Naval Authorities and Forces during their voyage.

6.5 The Panamanian ships will not be charged for the costs of LRIT transmissions.

6.6 The four (4) mandatory messages per day and the polling requests will be paid by the Administration with no charge to the ship owners.



Merchant Marine Circular

7- Procedure for Shipborne LRIT Equipment Testing

7.1 The Panama Maritime Authority (AMP), by Resolution No. 106-38-DGMM issued September 9, 2008, adopts Circular MSC.1/Circ.1257 of June 5, 2008 (amended by Circular MCS.1/Circ.1296 of December 8, 2008) as the relevant standard (Guidance on the Survey and Certification of Compliance of Ships with the Requirement to Transmit LRIT Information).

7.2 Shipborne equipment used for LRIT shall, after passing a Conformance Test conducted by the authorized ASP, be considered as an approved type in accordance with SOLAS V/19-1, MSC.263(84) of 16 May 2008 and MSC.1/Circ.1296 of December 8, 2008. There will be a charge by the Testing ASP directly to ship owners for the Conformance Test and LRIT Conformance Certificate.

7.3 To ensure timely compliance, and provide adequate opportunity for ship owners to upgrade equipment, ship owners must request an LRIT Conformance Test as soon as possible.

7.4 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. Ship owners 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) 16 May 2008 and MSC.1/Circ.1296 of December 8, 2008.

8- Communications Service Providers (CSP) for Panama Registered Ships

8.1 Ship owners may operate LRIT shipborne equipment preferably with the following Communication Service Providers (CSP). In all cases the shipborne equipment must still be tested pursuant to MSC.1/Circ.1296 to confirm correct operation:

- Inmarsat-C (provides coverage for sea areas A1, A2, A3)
- Inmarsat-D (provides coverage for sea areas A1, A2, A3)
- Iridium (provides coverage for sea areas A1, A2, A3, A4)



Merchant Marine Circular

9- Application Service Provider (ASP) for Panama Registered Ships

9.1 After January 1, 2009 a single Application Service Provider (ASPs) will act as the testing Application Service Provider (ASPs) for this Administration and as ASPs.

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

**CONSORCIO ABSOLUTE MARITIME TRACKING SERVICES INC/
POLESTAR SPACE APPLICATIONS LTD.**

2nd Floor, the Yellow Building, 1 Nicholas Road,
London W11 4AN, United Kingdom

Telephone: + 44 2073137400

Fax: +44 20 7313 7401

Email: support@polestarglobal.com; activations@polestarglobal.com

10- National Data Center (NDC) for Panama Registered Ships

10.1 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:

**CONSORCIO ABSOLUTE MARITIME TRACKING SERVICES INC/
POLESTAR SPACE APPLICATIONS LTD.**

2nd Floor, the Yellow Building, 1 Nicholas Road,
London W11 4AN, United Kingdom

Telephone: + 44 2073137400

Fax: +44 20 7313 7401

Email: support@polestarglobal.com; activations@polestarglobal.com

11- Configuring Shipborne Equipment

11.1 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.



Merchant Marine Circular

11.2 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.

12- In case you have any inquiries regarding LRIT functioning or LRIT equipment is not reporting properly.

Please contact the Recognized ASP at: activations@absolutemaritime.com; support@polestarglobal.com; or at the 24 x 7 support center +507-301-5748.

November, 2020 - New paragraph 2.3, 6.3, 6.6, 9.1 and 12 / Update ASP name and contact details.

May 2017 – Update ASP and NDC name, physical address and contact details.

July, 2014 – Update of email address

April, 2012 – Update of email address

August, 2009 – Addition of two CSP and changes in contact information

December, 2008.

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Merchant Marine Circular or any other request should be forward to:

Navigation and Maritime Safety Department-Control and Monitoring Section
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority

Phone: (507) 501-5032

E-mail: msierra@amp.gob.pa / alertas@amp.gob.pa

Website: <https://panamashipregistry.com/circulars/>