

Liaison Note to ITU WP5B

Autonomous Maritime Radio Devices (AMRD)

1 Introduction

IALA thanks the ITU WP5B for its Liaison Statement on autonomous maritime radio devices (AMRD) (Annex 24 to Working Party 5B Chairman's Report provided by ITU WP 5B 5B/646). During the meetings of the IALA ENAV and ARM Committees, held between the 1 – 5 April 2019, IALA reviewed and considered the Liaison Statement and the outcomes of the IMO NCSR deliberations on AMRD.

2 Discussion

The IALA ARM and ENAV Committees were of the view that:

1. IALA agrees with the content of the Liaison Statement provided to WP5B by the IMO NCSR Sub-Committee (5B/657) in response to Annex 24 to 5B/646, on the list of application for Group A & B AMRD. Namely, the list of suggested applications for Group A AMRD are:

Group A AMRD

- a. MOB Class M
- b. Mobile AtoN

It should be noted that the Mobile AtoN will cover a broad range of hazards to navigation (see section 5 below).

2. IALA agrees that some applications for Group B may be conditional in that they represent a certain level of hazard.
3. It is anticipated that all Mobile AtoN will be fitted with physical AIS and will therefore be considered to be Group A AMRD. IALA does not recommend the use of any virtual MAtoN and does not intend to provide any further guidance on this aspect.
4. A new numbering scheme suggested for Group A AMRD would not be necessary because:
 - a. Recommendation ITU-R M.585 has an MMSI numbering scheme for AIS AtoN that is suitable for Mobile AtoN and also has a numbering scheme for MOB Class M (Group A AMRD)
 - b. The competent authority remains responsible for the establishment and operation of AtoN. The use of the current MMSI numbering scheme for AIS AtoN will ensure Mobile AtoN applications go through the regulatory approval process.
 - c. Without a regulatory approval process and the use of a freeform numbering scheme, it is possible that Competent Authorities would have no control over the deployment of Mobile AtoN.
5. AIS message 21 should be used to indicate Mobile AtoN. This could be achieved by updating Table 74 of the ITU-R M.1371-5 to reflect that Mobile AtoN are captured by aids-to-navigation code 31.

The AtoN type/nature as reflected in table 74 of ITU-R M.1371-5, shall include the word "MOBILE"

The name field of the AtoN in message 21 should reflect the nature of the hazard. – for example “MARKER DRIFTING CONTAINER”

6. IALA strongly recommends that in Annex 1 of ITU “WORKING DOCUMENT TOWARDS A PRELIMINARY DRAFT NEW RECOMMENDATION ITU-R M.[AMRD]”:
 - a. The height of an antenna for an AIS device on a Mobile AtoN will vary depending on the situation, for example, drifting container vs drifting wreck. It should not be limited to 1 metre.
 - b. The power of an AIS device on a Mobile AtoN should be in accordance with table 3 of Recommendation ITU-R M.1371-5

This is to ensure Mobile AtoN have the possibility to be tracked by Competent Authorities using terrestrial networks.

3 Action requested

The ITU WP5B is asked to note the comments and information provided and take action as appropriate.