



SUB-COMMITTEE ON SAFETY OF
NAVIGATION
52nd session
Agenda item 17

NAV 52/INF.4
4 May 2006
ENGLISH ONLY

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Automatic Identification Systems: Accuracy of Transmissions

Submitted by the United Kingdom

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This paper advises the Sub-Committee that the United Kingdom is carrying out active surveillance of Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) with the aim of identifying and informing ship operators of erroneous vessel data being transmitted whilst in United Kingdom waters
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 3
<i>Related documents:</i>	None

Background/Introduction

1 The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), as the United Kingdom's Competent Authority, has received reports of vessels transmitting incorrect AIS data. This can be a danger to navigation and weakens confidence in the system. The errors reported include dynamic data, operator input fields and predefined fields.

Details of the proposal

2 The MCA has published a Marine Information Notice referred to as MIN 231(M+F) – see annex.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

3 The Sub-Committee is invited to note the contents of the annex.

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly asked to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

ANNEX

MARINE INFORMATION NOTE

**MIN 231 (M+F)****AIS (Automatic Identification Systems): Accuracy of transmissions**

Notice to all Shipowners, Masters, Small Craft Vessel Operators, Statutory Harbour Authorities and VTS Authorities.

This notice should be read with in conjunction with MSN 1795(M)

This MIN expires 01 April 2007.

Summary

This MIN advises the intention for the MCA to carry out active surveillance of Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) transmissions and to identify and inform ship operators of erroneous vessel data being transmitted.

1. Introduction/ Background

Regulations on the carriage requirements for AIS are detailed in MSN 1795(M).

1.1 The MCA, as the UK Competent Authority, has received reports of vessels transmitting incorrect AIS data. This can be a danger to navigation and weakens confidence in the system. The errors reported include:

- dynamic data (especially heading errors)
- operator input fields and
- predefined fields.

Causes can be:

- faulty interfaces, particularly with the gyro compass,
- incorrectly entered Maritime Mobile Service Identities (MMSI) or International Maritime Organization (IMO) numbers,
- incorrect Destination and estimated time of arrival (ETA) and
- failure to change vessel status or the use of an incorrect vessel status.

2 Contact from the Coastguard

2.1 When they suspect possible wrong data or missing information, Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres (MRCCs) will contact the vessel by VHF DSC or on a voice channel and masters will be told. If reported problems are not corrected, a Safety of Navigation deficiency may be reported to the appropriate Port State Control Authority.

3 Observations by other stations

3.1 Statutory Harbour Authorities and VTS Authorities that can monitor AIS are encouraged to contact vessels and tell masters if they detect wrong or missing data. Significant AIS deficiencies which are not corrected should be reported to the local MRCC using the reporting form attached as Annex A to this note.

3.2 Other users of AIS, including other vessels, are encouraged to report to the local MRCC with details of the deficiency.

More Information

More information on the contents of this Notice can be obtained from:

Navigation Safety Branch
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Bay 2/29
Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
Southampton
SO15 1EG

Tel : +44 (0) 23 8032 9356
Fax : +44 (0) 23 8032 9204
e-mail: Navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk

General Inquiries: 24 Hour Infoline
infoline@mcga.gov.uk
0870 600 6505

MCA Website Address: www.mcga.gov.uk

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Annex A

Report of Suspected Error in AIS Response

Action/Info¹

Received AIS Transponder Information			
Field:	Received Value:	Suspect Error (✓):	Details / Comments:
Static Data – must be completed			
MMSI:			
IMO Number			
Call sign			
Name			
Dynamic Data – record suspected errors			
Navigational Status			
Latitude			
Longitude			
COG			
SOG			
Heading			
Rate of Turn			
Time Stamp			
Errors/Comments (use of incorrect message, incorrect reporting rate etc)			

¹ Delete as applicable. Upon completion e-mail or fax this form to the nearest MRCC