



CIRCULAR MCO – 007-2023

December 19th, 2023

FROM | MCO HEAD OFFICE – TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT
TO | SURVEYORS/ MANAGEMENTS/ OWNERS/ OPERATORS
SUBJECT | LONG RANGE IDENTIFICATION AND TRACKING OF SHIPS (LRIT)

Dear all,

By this means we would like to draw your attention to the LRIT requirements applicable to all Panamanian flagged vessels under SOLAS V/19-1 regulation.

LRIT requirements are applicable to vessels engaged on international voyages as follow:

- All passenger ships, including high speed craft
- Cargo ships, including high speed crafts of 300 gross tonnage and above
- Mobile offshore drilling

All LRIT equipment should be capable of being configured to transmit minimum information automatically at reporting intervals every 6 hours, such minimum information such as:

- Identity of the ship
- Position of the ship
- Date and time of position

Vessel for which LRIT applies were required to be in compliance not later than the first date of radio survey after January 1st, 2009. IMO resolution MSC.202(81) offers specific guidance based on construction date and operation areas of vessels.

Vessel owners and managers shall refer to Circular MSC.1/Circ.1307/Rev.1 as guidance for surveys and certification of compliance of ships which are required to transmit LRIT information. Vessels registered in Panama and equipped with LRIT compliant Inmarsat-C equipment and the small percentage that may not meet LRIT performance standards, vessel owners and managers are advised to consult with manufacturers to ensure that their onboard LRIT equipment is in full compliance with IMO requirements as per IMO Resolution MSC.263(84).

Panama flagged vessels already registered shall follow that below timetable for annual conformance testing:

1. Vessels having the conformance test completed prior to December 2018, should complete the test before the end of September 2023.
2. Vessels having the conformance test completed between January 1st 2019 and December 31st, 2021 should complete the test before the end of November 2023.
3. Vessels having the conformance test completed after January 1st, 2022, should complete the test before December 31st, 2023.

Please be advised that:

- Starting July 1st, 2023 all conformance test reports issued on behalf of the Panama administration will be issued in electronic format
- Changes to ship particulars will not require a new conformance test but will require an amended test report
- The Panama administration will no longer accept conformance tests from previous flags prior joining the Panama registry

Sanctions may be applied to vessels that deliberately deactivate the LRIT or the AIS. Sanctions shall also apply to all those vessels that have been detained or restricted within the jurisdictional waters of the Republic of Panama, and without authorization from the Directorate General of Merchant Marine, change position or perform any commercial activity, and/or deactivate, manipulate, or alter the LRIT or the AIS.

It is mandatory that the LRIT and AIS maintain permanent and adequate operation avoiding by all possible means that they stop transmitting information on the identity and position of the vessel.

Should you have any further questions, don't hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gustavo Vaz", is written over the circular logo.

Capt. Gustavo Vaz
Technical Department
MACOSNAR Corporation