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Circular Letter to:

All companies having registered their ships under the flag of Antigua and Barbuda W.I.

All ships registered under the flag of Antigua and Barbuda W.I.

All authorized Recognized Organizations

1. General

1.1 The Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping, Antigua and Barbuda (ADOMS) wishes to draw the attention of all parties concerned to Chapter V, Regulation 19-1 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended, (SOLAS). It mandates the Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) of ships system which was adopted by the IMO's Maritime Safety Committee at the eighty-first session under *Resolution MSC.202 (81)* in May 2006.

1.2 The regulations for the LRIT system provide that ships shall be fitted with equipment capable of automatically transmitting, every six hours and without human intervention on board, the identity of the ship, the position of the ship and the date and time of the position provided. The equipment shall also be capable of being configured remotely to transmit the above information at variable intervals.


1.3 The IMO has issued a number of guidance documents pertaining to LRIT and ADOMS will continue to participate and monitor all subsequent documents with a view to amending this circular letter or issue a new document when necessary.

1.4 The aim of this circular is to provide all addressees with the necessary information on the LRIT system and the position of ADOMS as it relates to specifications and guidance of the pertinent IMO documents.

1.5 This circular supersedes Circular 02-003-08 Revision 1 and should be read in conjunction with SOLAS 1974, as amended, V/19-1, IMO *Resolution MSC.202 (81)*, *IMO MSC.1/Circular 1298* revoking *1256* and *IMO MSC.1/Circular 1307*.

2. Application- Type of Ships

2.1 The requirements for the LRIT system entered into force on 1st January, 2008 and shall apply to the following types of ships engaged on international voyages:

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2.1.1 passenger ships, including high-speed passenger craft;

2.1.2 cargo ships, including high-speed craft, of 300 gross tonnage and upwards; and

2.1.3 mobile offshore drilling units.

3. Application – Effective Date

3.1 SOLAS V/19-1 shall apply to ships effective:

3.1.1 for ships constructed on or after 31 December 2008, on the commencement of their operations;

3.1.2 ships constructed before 31 December 2008, not until the first radio survey after 31 December 2008; and


3.1.3 for ships operating in sea area A4, not until the first radio survey after 01 July 2009.

4. Exemptions

4.1 Ships, irrespective of the date of construction, fitted with an automatic identification system (AIS), as defined in *regulation 19.2.4*, and operated exclusively within GMDSS A1 sea area, as defined in *regulation IV/2.1.12*, shall not be required to comply with the provisions of this regulation. However such vessels will require an exemption or equivalent arrangement if they engage in an international voyage outside the GMDSS A1 sea area.

4.2 Ships/units specified in *paragraphs 2.1 and 4.1* that are not normally engaged in international voyages but are required to undertake a single international voyage or which are re-positioning from a GMDSS sea area A1 should apply to ADOMS St John's for consideration of exemption or equivalence in accordance with the provisions of SOLAS *regulations I/4, IV/3.1, IV/3.2 and V/3*.

4.3 Any application, which is submitted under *paragraph 4.2* above, should include details of the proposed voyage, including dates, length of voyage, port/place of departure and port/location of destination.

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5. Shipborne LRIT Equipment

5.1 Owners may utilise any equipment to transmit LRIT information on the proviso that the equipment:

5.1.1 demonstrates compliance with the requirements of SOLAS *Regulations V/19-1.6 and V/19-1.7*, and the revised performance standards adopted by MSC 263(84).

5.1.2 has undergone a satisfactory conformance test.

5.2 If the equipment is being used also for another function, e.g. ship security alert system (SSAS) or GMDSS transmission, the equipment shall also comply with the relevant performance standards relating to those functions.

5.3 All shipborne LRIT equipment must be tested by an Authorized Testing Application Service Provider. A satisfactory test result will be documented in a Conformance test report which needs to be carried on board the ship.

6. Conformance Test Reports

6.1 All Antigua and Barbuda flagged ships will be issued with an initial Conformance Test Report after they have successfully completed a conformance test, with the specified shipborne equipment, in accordance with the procedure outlined at paragraph 8.


6.2 The conformance test report shall be considered as no longer valid if:

6.2.1 There are changes to the LRIT shipborne equipment.

6.2.2 The LRIT shipborne equipment becomes unserviceable.

6.2.3 Antigua and Barbuda has withdrawn authorization to the Testing ASP that conducted the conformance test.

6.2.4 Antigua and Barbuda has been notified by the Recognized ASP that the shipborne equipment is not operating within the parameters of the Conformance Test Report and/or in accordance with the LRIT performance standards.

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6.2.5 The affected vessel has transferred to the Antigua and Barbuda Administration its Conformance Test Report which has been issued by an ASP that is not an authorized testing ASP for Antigua and Barbuda.

6.2.6 The ship is extending its area of operation beyond that which is stated on the existing Conformance Test Report.


7. Appointed Application Service Provider (ASP)

7.1 Pole Star Space Applications Limited, Transas Telematics Ltd., Fulcrum Maritime Systems Ltd., Trane and Trane, and SatPro Int. Ltd & Co KG have all been appointed by Antigua and Barbuda as Authorized Testing Application Service Providers.

7.2 Contact details for the Authorized Testing Application Service Providers, are as follows:

Pole Star Space Applications Limited
Suite 301 - 303
3rd Floor Whiteleys Centre
Queensway, London W2 4YN
United Kingdom
Tel: + 44 (0) 20 7313 7402
Fax: + 44 (0) 20 7313 7401
Email lrittesting@polestarglobal.com
Website www.polestarglobal.com

Transas Telematics Ltd.
4 Compass Point, Ensign Way
Southampton, SO31 4RA
United Kingdom
Tel: + 44 (0) 23 8045 8544
Fax: + 44 (0) 23 8045 8733
Email: lrit@transastelematics.com
Website: www.transas.com/telematics

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Fulcrum Maritime Systems Ltd.
Suite 3 Park Mews
15 Park Lane
Hornchurch, Essex RM11 1BB
United Kingdom
Tel: + 44 (0) 17 0878 8400
Fax: + 44 (0) 17 0878 8402
Email: enquiries@fulcrum-maritime.com
Website: www.fbs.uk.com


SatPro Int. Ltd. & Co KG
Ewerweg 6
24245 Kirchbarkau
Germany
Tel: + 49 (0) 4302 9697914
Fax: + 49 (0) 4302 9697915
Email: info@satpro.org
Website: www.satpro.org

Trane and Trane A/S
Lundtoftegaardsvej 93 D
DK-2800Kgs
Lyngby, Denmark
Tel: + 45 39 55 88 00
Fax: + 45 39 55 88 88
Website: www.thrane.com

8. Conformance Test Procedures

8.1 All parties concerned with the timely compliance of the ships they operate, with the provisions of *regulation V/19-1*, are advised to contact one of ADOMS Authorized Testing ASPs to make the necessary arrangements for conducting the Conformance Tests set out in *MSC.1/Circ.1257*, well ahead of the date on which the survey of the radio installation, which determines the date on which the ship is required to comply with the provisions of *regulation V/19-1*, becomes due.

8.2 The Authorized Testing ASP will, on behalf of the flag State Antigua and Barbuda, conduct a Conformance Test of the shipborne equipment in accordance with

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the provisions of *MSC.1/Circ. 1257 on Guidance on the survey and certification of compliance of ships with the requirement to transmit LRIT information.*

8.3 Upon successful completion of the conformance test, the authorized testing ASP will provide the test results in the form of a *Conformance Test Confirmation* to ADOMS St. John's. ADOMS St. John's will validate the ship's data and issue a Conformance Test Report in accordance with IMO MSC.1/Circ.1307 *paragraph 7.1.*

8.4 A scanned copy of the Conformance Test report will be emailed to the appropriate authority.

8.5 The original copy, along with an invoice based on the fees quoted at *paragraph 13* for the processing of the LRIT Conformance Test Report, will be forwarded to the appropriate authority via FedEx, unless otherwise requested. The FedEx charges related to this service is currently US \$70.00 and the certificate should be delivered within 3 days.

8.5 LRIT shipborne equipment that fails the test shall be required to be upgraded or replaced as appropriate.

9. The National Data Centre


9.1 *Fulcrum Maritime Systems Ltd* (www.fulcrum-maritime.com) is the Recognized ASP appointed for Antigua and Barbuda and is also contracted to manage the National Data Centre on behalf of ADOMS. All Antigua and Barbuda flagged ships, having successfully completed the Conformance Test, will be integrated into the National Data Centre.

9.2 ADOMS/ Fulcrum will notify the Company of any deficiencies with the equipment data transmission and/or any other circumstances that will affect the transmission of LRIT information from the ship. The Company/Master may be required to take corrective actions if deemed necessary.

10. Change of Flag

10.1 When ships are transferring flag to Antigua and Barbuda they are required to comply with the following procedures:

10.1.1 If the ASP that conducted the Conformance Test is one of those listed as an Authorised Testing ASP at *paragraph 6.1* then the Conformance Test Report

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will be considered valid. The shipowner should therefore contact the ASP and inform them, in advance, of the pending move and ask that they reissue the Conformance Test Confirmation indicating the new particulars of the ship (MMSI number, the distinctive numbers or letters, etc.). ADOMS will, upon receipt of the Confirmation from the ASP, issue the new Conformance Test Report, as per *paragraph 8.4*, without altering the date of completion of the Conformance Test.

10.1.2 Where the ASP that conducted the Conformance Test is not one of those listed at *paragraph 6.1* then the Conformance Test Report will be considered invalid and the ship will have to conduct a new Conformance Test as per *paragraph 6* before a new Conformance Test Report is issued.

10.2 A processing fee for issuing the new Conformance Test Report for a change of flag will be charged to the shipowner at the rate prescribed in *paragraph 13.2*.


11. Change of Ship's Name

11.1 The LRIT Conformance Test Report is a trading certificate, therefore when an Antigua and Barbuda flagged ship has to change name, the designated Recognized Organization will effect the name change, as appropriate, when embarking onboard the ship to amend all statutory and trading certificates.

12. Temporary Suspension of LRIT Transmission

12.1 ADOMS will consider reducing the frequency of the transmission of LRIT information to one transmission every 24-hour period, or may, under warranted circumstances, temporarily stop the transmission of such information if a ship is undergoing repairs, modification or conversions in dry-dock or in port, or is laid up for a period of time.

12.2 The Master of an Antigua and Barbuda flagged vessel shall communicate any request in accordance with *paragraph 12.1* to ADOMS St John's, via the Company Security Officer, at least 72 hours in advance, and shall provide the appropriate justification for the request.

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13. Fees

13.1 *Conformance Test:*

The fee for conducting the conformance test will be **quoted and charged by the respective authorized testing ASP** listed at *paragraph 7.1* when the shipowner contacts them about testing the shipborne equipment.

13.2 *Conformance Test Report:*

The fee for the initial Conformance Test Report is **US \$200.00**.

13.3 *Exemption certificates:*

There will be no charge for exemption certificates.

13.3 *Amended and/or subsequent Conformance Test Reports:*

A processing fee of **US \$200.00** will be charged to the shipowner.

13.3 The total amount, as quoted on the invoices generated by ADOMS, is to be remitted within 40 days free of bank charges, stating the invoice number and date of issue.

13.4 For further inquiries please make direct contact with:

ADOMS St. John's, Antigua W.I.
Phone: +1 (268) 462-1273 or 462-4353
Fax: +1 (268) 462-4358
E-mail: marineserv@candw.ag

Annexed IMO references:

Annex I: IMO Res. MSC.202(81)

Annex II: IMO MSC.1/Circ. 1298

Annex III: IMO MSC.1/Circ. 1307

November 2009

Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS St. John's)