



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

CIRCULAR N° SOL 030 Rev. 2

Amendment to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at sea, 1974, as amended. Chapter V – Safety of navigation, Regulation 19-1

IMO Resolutions: MSC.202(81), MSC.263(84), IMO Circulars: MSC.1/Circ. 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299

TO: SHIPOWNERS, SHIPS' OPERATORS & MANAGERS, MASTERS, RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS, ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES AUTHORIZED TESTING, ASPs AND ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES RECOGNIZED ASP SURVEYORS TO FLAG STATE ADMINISTRATION

APPLICABLE TO:

- Passenger ships, including High-Speed passenger crafts.
- Cargo ships, including high-speed crafts of 300 gross tonnage and upwards.
- Mobile offshore drilling units

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 10th February, 2009

Monaco, 10th February, 2009.

Ships should be fitted with a system to transmit automatically the following long-range identification and tracking (LRIT) information:

- Ship's identity;
- Ship's position (latitude and longitude); and
- Date and time of the position provided.

LRIT equipment should comply with the requirements of SOLAS regulations V/19-1.6 and V/19-1.7, and the revised performance standards as referenced in IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ. 1296.

The above-mentioned Long Range Identification and Tracking information should be transmitted automatically as follows:

- Ships built on or after 31st December 2008 not later than the initial survey of the radio installation
- Ships built before 31st December 2008 and certified for operation:
 - 1) In sea area A1 and A2, as defined in regulations IV/2.1.12 and IV/2.1.13; or
 - 2) In sea area A1, A2 and A3 as defined in regulations IV/2.1.12, IV/2.1.13 and IV/2.1.14; not later than the first survey of the radio installation after 31st December 2008.
 - 3) Ships built before 31st December 2008 and certified for operation in sea areas A1, A2, A3 and A4 as defined in regulations IV/2.1.12, IV/2.1.13, IV/2.1.14 and IV/2.1.15, not later than the first survey of the radio installation after 1st July

2009. However, these ships should comply with the provisions of paragraph 2) above whilst they operate within sea areas A1, A2 and A3.

Irrespective of the date of construction, ships will not be required to comply with the provision of regulation 19-1 in the following cases:

- When the vessel is operating exclusively in GMDSS sea area A1 as defined in regulation IV/2.1.12, and fitted with an automatic identification system (AIS), as defined in regulation 19.2.4,
- When the vessel is not engaged in international voyages or is operating exclusively within the territorial waters of a single country,
- There is long term lay-up or conversion with all shipboard system non-operational and without shipboard power,
- Vessel will enter into long term lay-up or conversion with all shipboard systems non-operational and without shipboard power.

FSOs and FSUs, propelled by mechanical means, Special Purpose Ships and Offshore Support vessels tonnage of less than 300 GT, engaged on international voyages do not need to comply with the LRIT requirements.

FSOs and FSUs, propelled by mechanical means, Special Purpose Ships and Offshore Support vessels tonnage of 300 GT or above, engaged on international voyages outside GMDSS sea area A1 (or not fitted with AIS when engaged in voyages within GMDSS sea area A1) should comply with the LRIT requirements.

LRIT equipment should comply with the requirements of SOLAS regulations V/19-1.6 and V/19-1.7, and the revised performance standards as referenced in IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ. 1296 and that the said equipment has undergone a satisfactory conformance test.

The conformance test will be conducted taking into consideration the criteria noted in paragraph 5.1 and in accordance with the provisions of SOLAS Regulation V/19-1.4.1 the due date of the conformance test will be as follows:

- for ships built on or after 31st December 2008, the test should be conducted prior to the date of the initial survey of the radio installation after 31st December 2008.
- for ships built before 31st December 2008 which are certified for operations in GMDSS sea areas A1, A2 and A3, the test should be conducted prior to the date of the first survey of the radio installation after 31st December 2008,
- For ships built before 31st December 2008 and certified for operation in GMDSS sea area A4, the test should be conducted prior to the date of the first survey of the radio installation after 1st July 2009 unless the ship is operating in GMDSS sea area A1, A2 and A3. The test should then be conducted prior to the date of the first survey of the radio installation after 31st December 2008.

St Vincent and The Grenadines Maritime Administration hereby highlights that the conformance test should be carried out as soon as possible in order to avoid any delays in implementation dates indicated above.

Compliance with the LRIT requirements should be recorded respectively on the Record of Equipment for the Cargo Ship Safety Certificate (Form C), the Record of Equipment for the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate (Form E) or the Record Equipment for the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate (Form P). The format of these records should be amended in accordance with IMO Resolution MSC.227 (82).

When a successful Conformance Test has been carried out by an authorized ASP, the ship borne equipment used for LRIT transmission should be considered as approved in accordance with SOLAS V/19-1, MSC.263 (84) and MSC.1/Circ.1296.

There are no certification requirement for ships of between 300 GT and 500 GT. In these cases, we recommend that owners retain on board the documentary evidence of compliance. Upon satisfactory conformance test, in addition to the Conformance Test Report, St Vincent and the Grenadines Maritime Administration will issue an attestation which shall be retained on board.

If the test has been unsuccessful, the vessel should also have documentation attesting that a conformance test is being carried out.

The St Vincent and The Grenadines Recognized Organizations, in accordance with the provisions of SOLAS regulation V/19-1.4.1 and MSC.1/Circ.1296, should ensure that ships have a valid Conformance Test Report prior issuing or endorsing the Safety Radio Certificate / the Record of Equipment for the Safety Equipment Certificate.

If the survey of the radio installation is carried out for a LRIT applicable vessel and Conformance Test Report is not available onboard, the Recognized Organization will issue the Short Term Safety Radio Certificate valid until the end of survey's window.

If the survey of the radio installation is carried out for a LRIT applicable vessel at the end of the survey window and there is no valid Conformance Test Report on board the vessel, the Recognized Organization should immediately contact St Vincent and The Grenadines Maritime Administration.

Owners/Managers should note that a new Ship's Station License will also be issued to reflect LRIT equipment. Owners/Managers should therefore apply to this Administration for the issue of Conformance Test Report/ Ship's Station License. Priority will be given to those vessels whose survey of the radio installation is due in January, February and March 2009.

Systems and equipment used to meet the requirements of Regulation 19-1 should be capable of being switched off on board or be capable of ceasing the distribution of long-range identification and tracking information:

- Where international agreements, rules or standards provide for the protection of navigational information; or
- In exceptional circumstances and for the shortest duration possible where the operation is considered by the Master to compromise the safety or security of the ship. In such a case, the Master should inform this Administration without delay and make an entry in the record of navigational activities and incidents maintained in accordance with Regulation 28 as amended by MSC 142(77) of SOLAS, Chapter V, setting out the reasons for the decision and indicating the period during which the system or equipment was switched off.

If the LRIT equipment is switched off due to the following circumstances, the Master or Company Security Officer (CSO) should notify St Vincent and The Grenadines Maritime Administration (technical@svg-marad.com) :

- Ship is under repairs, modifications/conversions in dry-dock
- Ship is in port for a long period or is laid up
- When the ship is without electrical power for more than 12 hours

The notification and subsequent agreement should be entered in the Ship's Log Book and St Vincent and The Grenadines Maritime Administration should be advised as soon as possible when the LRIT equipment is switched on again.

As far as the LRIT Testing and St Vincent and The Grenadines Authorized Testing ASPs please refer to Circular SOL 028.

Owners/Companies who intend to register their vessel with St Vincent and The Grenadines Flag should provide St Vincent and The Grenadines Maritime Administration (technical@svg-marad.com) with the following details:

- Vessel's name;
- Vessel's present Flag;
- Vessel's IMO Number;
- Copy of existing Conformance Test Report.

If a Conformance Test has not been carried out by St Vincent and The Grenadines Authorized Testing ASPs, St Vincent and The Grenadines Maritime Administration may require a vessel to undergo a new conformance test of the LRIT equipment.

Owners/Companies who intend to leave St Vincent and The Grenadines Flag or to permanently withdraw their vessel from service should inform St Vincent and The Grenadines Maritime Administration (technical@svg-marad.com).

Fees for LRIT documentation issued by St Vincent and The Grenadines Maritime Administration are as follows:

- Initial Conformance Test Report: US\$ 400.
- Amended and/or subsequent Conformance Test Report: US\$ 200
- Exemption / Equivalent Arrangement Document: US\$ 150

The normal fee for the Radio License will be applied.

St Vincent and The Grenadines Maritime Administration has appointed the following company as the only Recognized ASP:

Fulcrum Maritime Systems Ltd
London (Head Office)
Park Mews, 15 Park Lane
Hornchurch
Essex RM11 1BB
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 1708 788 400
Fax: +44 (0) 1708 788 402
E-mail: enquiries@fulcrum-maritime.com