



REPUBLIC OF
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

Marine Notice

No. 2-011-17

Rev. Dec/2022

TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF MERCHANT SHIPS, AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS

SUBJECT: Automatic Identification Systems (AIS)

- References:
- (a) **SOLAS**, *International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea*, Consolidated Edition 2020
 - (b) **IMO Resolution [A.224\(7\)](#)**, *Performance standards for echo-sounding equipment*, adopted on 12 October 1971; as amended by **IMO Resolution [MSC.74\(69\)](#)**, *Adoption of new and amended performance standards, Annex 3, Recommendation on performance standards for a universal shipborne Automatic Identification System (AIS)*, adopted 12 May 1998; as revised by **IMO Resolution [MSC.115\(73\)](#)**, *Adoption of the revised performance standards for shipborne combined GPS/GLONASS receiver equipment*, adopted 1 December 2000
 - (c) **IMO Resolution [A.1106\(29\)](#)**, *Revised guidelines for the onboard operational use of shipborne Automatic Identification Systems (AIS)*, adopted 2 December 2015
 - (d) **IMO Circular [SN.1/Circ.227](#)**, *Guidelines for the installation of a shipborne Automatic Identification System (AIS)*, issued 6 January 2003, as amended by **IMO Circular [SN/Circ.245](#)**, issued 15 December 2004 and as corrected by **IMO Circular [SN.1/Circ.227/Corr.1](#)**, issued 10 December 2008
 - (e) **IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1252](#)**, *Guidelines on the annual testing of the Automatic Identification System (AIS)*, issued 22 October 2007
 - (f) **IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1576](#)**, *Unified interpretation of the provisions of SOLAS relating to the annual testing of the VDR, S-VDR, AIS and EPIRB*, issued 16 June 2017
 - (g) **IACS [UR Z17](#)**, *Procedural requirements for service suppliers*

PURPOSE:

This Notice clarifies carriage requirements for Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) onboard Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)-flagged vessels. This Notice supersedes Rev. 03/16. Its content has been streamlined. There are no new requirements.

APPLICABILITY

SOLAS V/19 requires the carriage of approved AIS equipment for:

- all ships¹ of 300 gross tons (GT) and upwards engaged on international voyages;
- cargo ships of 500 GT and upwards not engaged on international voyages; and
- all passenger ships of any size whatsoever.

REQUIREMENTS

1.0 Implementation

All ships to which SOLAS V/19 applies must be fitted with an approved AIS.

2.0 Operation

- 2.1 In accordance with SOLAS V/19.2.4, all ships fitted with an AIS must maintain it in operation at all times, except where international agreements, rules, or standards provide for the protection of navigational information.
- 2.2 In accordance with SOLAS Regulation XI-2/8, the Master has significant discretion concerning the safety and security of their ship where continued operation of the AIS would pose a higher risk. Therefore:
 - .1 Where safety is deemed to be compromised by AIS' continued operation, Masters may switch the device off in accordance with SOLAS XI-2/8.
 - .2 If an AIS is switched off, this action must be properly recorded in the official log and reported to the Company Security Officer and others in accordance with ship security plan provisions.

1. The phrase "all ships" means any ship, vessel, or craft irrespective of type and purpose. Therefore, these regulations apply to all RMI-flagged private, commercial and passenger yachts, and fishing vessels.

3.0 Annual Testing

3.1 In accordance with SOLAS V/18.9, an AIS must be tested annually.²
The test must:

- .1 be conducted by a service provider that is approved by an RMI-authorized Recognized Organization;³ and
- .2 verify the:
 - a. correct programming of the ship static information;
 - b. correct data exchange with connected sensors; and
 - c. radio performance by radio frequency measurement and on-air test using, for example, a Vessel Traffic Service.

3.2 A copy of the test report must be retained on board the ship.

2. See IMO Circulars [MSC.1/Circ.1252](#) and [MSC.1/Circ.1576](#).

3. See RMI Marine Guideline [2-11-15](#) and [IACS UR Z17](#).