

Republic of the Marshall Islands

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

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YACHT SAFETY ADVISORY No. 01-22

To: Yacht Owners/Captains, Managers, Agents, Recognized Class Societies and Appointed Representatives

Subject: GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM ROLLOVER - 2022

Date: 13 January 2022

The Republic of the Marshall Islands Maritime Administrator (the “Administrator”) is receiving requests to issue dispensation letters for the malfunction of Global Positioning System (GPS) units. On 2 January 2022, a rollover event occurred within the United States NAVSTAR GPS system which may cause some GPS units indicating an incorrect position and incorrect date with 2 January 2022 showing as 19 May 2002. It should be noted that the problem may include navigation and communication equipment. GPS receivers and equipment using GPS chips could produce data that is 19.7 years in the past, generating errors in both the GPS position and date. The 19.7-year date error may result in instability in positioning, causing position errors (e.g., failure of GPS position acquisition, etc.).

The positional fix may be restored by carrying out a cold start on some units as per the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) instruction manual. However, the incorrect date cannot be resolved by a cold start. The GPS OEM may need to provide a software update to resolve this issue, though in some cases the GPS unit may need to be replaced.

The Administrator is requesting that:

1. Vessel owners and operators:

- verify the onboard GPS equipment for proper functioning;
- if equipment appears to be affected, to contact their GPS supplier or OEM to determine if the equipment onboard their vessels may require a service technician to update the software; and
- rectify the GPS equipment issue at the first available opportunity, but no later than 31 March 2022.

This YSA is evaluated annually by the Administrator and expires one year after its issuance or renewal unless otherwise noted, superseded, or revoked.

2. Vessel Masters:

- make appropriate entries in their Global Maritime Distress and Safety System and Deck Log Books; and
- keep boarding pilots and port State control advised if the discrepancy exists on their vessel.

Please contact the Administrator's Radio Service Area at radio@register-iri.com if additional information is needed.