



INTERNATIONAL SHIP CLASSIFICATION

10 Anson Road, #25-01 International Plaza Singapore 079903
Tel: +65 6225 2565 Fax: +65 6225 2265 Email: Info@isclass.org

CIRCULAR



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ISClass
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REQUIREMENTS OF AUTOMATIC TRACKING AID

INTRODUCTION

1. Upon a brief review of some interim Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate issued by our China Offices, Head Office noted that there seems to be some confusion with regards to the requirements of the Automatic Tracking Aid (ATA) in accordance SOLAS, 1974, as amended, Regulation V/19.
2. While the absence of the ATA (that are supposed to be installed onboard international trading ships of certain gross tonnage) has yet to be a major focus by Port State Control Officers, we ought to be proactively correcting any discrepancies noted so that our ships are always in compliance with the required IMO conventions.

AIM

3. The aim of this circular is to clarify the requirements of the ATA in accordance with SOLAS, 1974, as amended, Regulation V/19 "*Carriage Requirements for Shipborne Navigational Systems and Equipment*".

APPLICATIONS

3. Ships constructed on or after 1 July 2002 shall be fitted with navigational systems and equipment which fulfill the requirements SOLAS, 1974, as amended, Regulation V/19, para 2.1 to 2.9. This includes the requirement of ATA for ships with gross tonnage of 500 and above.
4. For ships constructed before 1 July 2002, the relevant regulations of SOLAS, 1974, in force prior to 1 July 2002, shall apply.

NEED FOR ATA

5. All ships with gross tonnage 500 and above shall be fitted with an ATA, or other means, to plot ***automatically*** the range and bearing of other targets to determine collision risk.

6. All ships with gross tonnage of 3000 and above shall be fitted with a second ATA, or other means, to plot ***automatically*** the range and bearing of other targets to determine collision risk. The function of this second set of system shall be independent of the first set of equipping.

PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS OF ATA

7. The principal functions of an ATA are as follows:

- a. Acquisition and tracking of targets
- b. Display of information on tracked targets in graphic and numeric
- c. Sending out alarms

8. The ATA should also be able to track at least 10 targets simultaneously, and the radar shall ***automatically*** traces the target. In addition, the ATA should have functions to preset:

- a. CPA (Closest Point of Approach)
- b. TCPA (Time to CPA)
- c. Guard Zone
- d. Send out alarms when any tracked target closed within a minimum range and time preset, and close to a range or transit a zone preset

9. The main differences of an ATA compared to a Automatic Radar Plotting Aid (ARPA) are as follows:

- a. Acquisition of targets is manual
- b. ATA does not have trial maneuver

CONCLUSION

10. ISCLASS surveyors are to be familiar with information listed within the circular. All surveyors are encouraged to forward this circular to the affected owners.

11. This circular shall take immediate effect.

Appendix I – Example of a Simplified Automatic Tracking Aid

(There are many other brands and models in the market. Owner will have to decide which type is most suitable for them.)