



INTERNATIONAL SHIP CLASSIFICATION

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CIRCULAR



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To : All Offices
From : General Manager
ISClass
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ANNUAL TESTING OF ANNUAL TESTING OF THE AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AIS)

1. The requirement of Automatic Identification System (AIS) is to be subjected to annual testing which shall come into force soon following the approval of the guidelines on the annual testing.
2. The purpose of an annual testing is to determine that the AIS is operational as defined in appropriate performance standard not inferior to those adopted by the Organization*.
3. The annual testing of AIS should be carried out by a qualified radio inspector authorized by the administration or a Recognized Organization (RO).
4. The annual testing of AIS installation should include:
 - a. Installation details including Antenna layout, initial configuration report, interconnection diagrams, provision of the pilot plug and power supply arrangements;
 - b. Checking the correct programming of the ships static information;
 - c. The ability of the AIS to receive ships dynamic information from the appropriate sensors;
 - d. The ability to correctly input the ships voyage related data;
 - e. A performance test of the equipment including radio frequency measurements; and
 - f. An on-air test that the unit is working correctly using for example an appropriate VTS Station or a suitable test equipment.

5. to align with the appropriate survey under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC), the annual testing may be carried out as follows:
 - up to 3 months before the due date of the passenger ship renewal survey or the cargo ship renewal survey;
 - 3 months before or after the due date of the cargo ship safety equipment periodical/annual survey. (The maximum period between subsequent test is governed by the time window associated to the subsequent surveys, unless either certificate has been extended as permitted by SOLAS regulation I/14, in which case a similar extension may be granted by the administration).
6. A copy of the report of the annual testing carried out by a qualified radio inspector authorized by the administration or a RO should be kept on board.
7. The annual testing should be recorded in the form of the model test report as given in the appendix. If the language used is neither English nor French nor Spanish, the text should included a translation into one of these languages.