

Circular 233/2020 (*This circular has been revoked and is superseded by Circular 298*)

To: Vessel Owners, Managers, Masters, Officers, Deputy Registrars and other interested parties.

Subject: Consequences for deliberately deactivating Long Range Identification and Tracking Equipment (LRIT) and or Automatic Identification System (AIS)

Reference: Circular 216/2019 AIS Regulation Compliance.

Date: 11th June 2020

Summary

Over the last couple of years there has been increased focus on sanctions compliance. There are multiple agencies, NGOs and media involved in monitoring the behaviour and performance of ships and seeking out sanctions busting activity.

The Cook Islands is a member of the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering which also deals with financing of terrorist activities, tax evasion and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. As such we are bound by and committed to ensuring that vessels that flag the Cook Islands flag do not engage in any of the above activities.

MCI monitors vessels through LRIT, through PurpleTrac which will report on any vessel entering a war zone or sanctioned port and on any owners or managers who are listed on the UN Sanctions list as well as through Sentroweb-DJ which monitors companies and individuals who are involved in sanctions busting, money laundering, tax evasion or the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Vessels that engage in "deceptive practices" will draw the attention of the UN, NGOs, the media and MCI. Deceptive Practices include:

1. Switching off AIS and or deactivating LRIT without good reason (to avoid pirate attack whilst transiting pirate infested areas)
2. Drifting in areas known to be used for transshipment of fuel
3. Failing to keep adequate records of all oil transfers and/or refusing to submit those records to MCI for examination
4. Calling on Sanctioned ports without impeccable records of what cargo was delivered and/or uplifted, which may be requested by MCI.

All vessels are required to inform the Flag in advance of their intention to switch off the AIS stating the reason, the intended route, ports of call for loading or discharge of cargo and the expected duration.



In accordance with 5 (2) of the [Cook Islands Shipping \(Infringement Deficiency\) Regulation 2014](#) an owner, charterer and master of a vessel could be fined for each infringement deficiency not exceeding NZD\$30,000.00.

Vessels found to be engaged in deceptive practices will be given notice that they will be removed from the register on the grounds that the continued registration of these vessels will not be in the interests of the Cook Islands.

If you have any queries, please contact the Registrar of Ships on moeroa@maritimecookislands.com