

**Circular 4 / 2008**

**To: Ship Owners and/or Operators of Cargo Vessels, Powered Barges, Tugs, Utility Vessels & Dredgers over 300 GT; Deputy Registrars and Other Interested Parties**

**Subject: Long Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT)**

**Date: 30 July 2008**

**About LRIT**

SOLAS V/19-1 Long-Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT) requirements entered into force on 1 January 2008 and have a compliance date of 31 December 2008.

LRIT allows Maritime Cook Islands to receive position reports from vessels flying the Cook Islands flag from anywhere in the world. This also allows national governments an overview of vessels in their territorial waters and off their coastlines.

The regulation requires transmission of the following information for LRIT purposes:

- Identity of the ship (IMO Number and Vessel Name)
- Position of the ship (latitude and longitude)
- The date and time of the position

**Application & Timeline**

LRIT equipment applies to the following vessels engaged in international voyages:

- Cargo Vessels, including High Speed Craft, equal to or over 300 GT
- Passenger ships, including High Speed Passenger craft
- Mobile Offshore Drilling Units
- Yachts equal to or over 300 GT, certified under the 'Large Yacht Code' or holding a Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate
- Powered Barges, Utility Vessels, Tugs and Dredgers equal to or over 300 GT

These vessels, constructed before 31 December 2008, must comply with the following timelines:

- Vessels operating in sea areas A1 + A2 or A1 + A2 + A3 by no later than the first Radio Survey after 31 December 2008.
- Vessels operating exclusively in sea area A4 (polar) by no later than the first radio survey after 1 July 2009. If also operating in A1 + A2 + A3, the above requirement would apply in those areas.

N.B. Ships, to which SOLAS V/19-1 applies, constructed after 31 December 2008 must comply with the requirements at time of delivery.

Those ships operating exclusively in sea area A1 and fitted with an Automatic Identification System (AIS) are exempt from LRIT regulations.

**Technology**

The following platforms are considered most suited to the transmission of LRIT data, in order of practical suitability:

- Inmarsat "Mini-C"-type Mobile Earth Station (as used for SSAS and / or commercial tracking applications);
- Secondary Inmarsat C Mobile Earth Station (typically the "back-up / redundant" GMDSS largely on stand-by);
- Primary Inmarsat C Mobile Earth

**Required Action by Owners/Operators**

1. Maritime Cook Islands has appointed Pole Star Space Applications Limited (Pole Star) as an Authorized Testing Application Service Provider (ASP) to undertake shipborne equipment testing and the issuance of a Conformance Test Report. Contact Pole Star at:  
Email: [lritesting@polestarglobal.com](mailto:lritesting@polestarglobal.com) Phone: +44 (0)20 7313 7400 or  
Fax: +44 (0)20 7313 7401
2. Complete the Fleet Registration Form (zipped Excel document) supplied by Pole Star.
3. Once registration is complete, an activation code (Data Reporting and Polling Closed Network Identity or DNID) and other supplemental commands will be downloaded automatically to the vessel's chosen Inmarsat C Mobile Earth Station. This will activate the automatic LRIT transmissions.
4. Following activation, there will be a period of testing in line with guidelines contained in MSC.1/Circ.1257. This is necessary to ensure the transmitted data is accurate and reliable. This testing will be carried out remotely by Pole Star. Upon successful completion, a test certificate will be issued. All vessels must hold such a certificate to comply with SOLAS V/19-1.

General information and LRIT requirements are available at [www.lrit.com](http://www.lrit.com). Pertinent IMO resolutions can be found at <http://www.lrit.com/regulation.html>

For further information or clarification, please contact the Registrar of Ships:  
Email: [fleet@maritimecookislands.com](mailto:fleet@maritimecookislands.com) Phone: +682 23 848 or Fax: +682 23 846.