

Palau International Ship Registry



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MARINE NOTICE 124.2

To: RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS, SHIPOWNERS, MANAGERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS, AND FLAG STATE INSPECTORS

Subject: AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS (AIS)

1. Reference
 - 1.1 SOLAS, International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea Consolidated Edition 2014, as amended
 - 1.2 IMO Assembly Resolution A.1106(29), *Revised Guidelines for the Onboard Operational Use of Shipborne Automatic Identification Systems (AIS)*, adopted December 2nd, 2015,
 - 1.3 IMO Resolution MSC.74(69), *Adoption of New and Amended Performance Standards, Annex 3, Recommendation on Performance Standards for a Universal Shipborne Automatic Identification System (AIS)*, adopted May 12th, 1998
 - 1.4 IMO Resolution MSC.115(73), *Adoption of the Revised Performance Standards for Shipborne Combined GPS/GLONASS Receiver Equipment*, adopted December 1st, 2000
 - 1.5 IMO Circular SN/Circ.227, *Guidelines for the Installation of a Shipborne Automatic Identification System (AIS)*, issued January 6th 2003, as amended by IMO Circular SN/Circ.245, issued December 15th 2004 and as corrected by IMO Circular SN/Circ.227/Corr.1, issued December 10th 2008
 - 1.6 IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1252, *Guidelines on the Annual Testing of the Automatic Identification System (AIS)*, issued on October 22nd, 2007
2. Purpose
 - 2.1 This Marine Notice provides the requirements to fully implement the carriage of AIS on board Palau registered vessels.
3. Background Information
 - 3.1 The 2000 revision of SOLAS Chapter V significantly changed the requirements for shipboard navigation identification equipment. The amendment established mandatory carriage requirements for approved AIS equipment under Regulation V/19 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS). This regulation became mandatory on July 1st, 2002.
 - 3.2 AIS purpose is to provide automatically to appropriately equipped shore stations, other ships and aircraft, information including the ship's identity, type, position, course, speed, navigational status and other safety related information.
4. Applicability
 - 4.1 This Marine Notice applies to all Palau registered as per below:
 - a. all ships, irrespective of their type or purpose, of 300 gross tons (GT) and upwards engaged on international voyages;
 - b. cargo ships of 500 GT and upwards not engaged on international voyages; and
 - c. all passenger ships regardless of their size.



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5. Installation of Shipborne AIS

5.1 The installation of AIS shall follow the guidance provided and adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO)

6. Operation of AIS

6.1 SOLAS requires that all ships fitted with AIS maintain the AIS in operation at all times, except where international agreements, rules, or standards provide for the protection of navigational information. With respect to this requirement, Masters should reference SOLAS, Regulation XI-2/8, entitled "Masters' discretion for ship safety and security". This regulation reinforces and provides the Master with significant discretion concerning the safety and security of his or her ship where continued operation of the AIS would pose a higher risk.

6.1.1 Due to clear specifications from SOLAS and the IMO Guidelines, the Master may only consider switching it off in exceptional circumstances, for example, concealing the identity, location, and course of the ship from pirates when transiting through high risk piracy areas, and therefore the reason for switching off AIS needs to be validated with specific evidence and reason to believe that the vessel and its crew were in danger.

6.1.2 Deliberately turning off the AIS Transmitter signal without legitimate reason regarding the safety of the crew and vessel represents a breach with the Palau Flag State Regulations.

6.2 In the event that within the Master's discretion the AIS is turned off in concerns with the safety and security of the ship, the Master, Manager, or Owner of the vessel shall inform the Palau Ship Registry Administration immediately to the email address technical@palaureg.com, and the information should include: Duration of time in which the AIS was turned off, the reasons of concern, and any additional information as deemed necessary. The information should be provided within 24 hrs. of the system being turned off.

6.3 Vessels operating in Sea Area A1 for which the LRIT is not applicable, shall have the AIS system operating at all times. In the event that section 6.1 above is applicable, the Master or Manager shall inform the Palau Ship Registry Administrator within 24 hrs. of the equipment being turned off, including duration for which the equipment was turned off and reasons for turning off the system.

7. Annual Testing

7.1 In accordance with V/18.9, the automatic identification system (AIS) shall be subjected to an annual test. The test shall be conducted by an approved surveyor or an approved testing or servicing facility. The test shall verify the correct programming of the ship static information, correct data exchange with connected sensors as well as verifying the radio performance by radio frequency measurement and on-air test using, e.g., a Vessel Traffic Service

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(VTS).

- 7.2 The Palau Ship Registry Administrator gives effect to the Guidelines on Annual Testing of the AIS as contained in the Appendix of MSC.1/Circ.1252, provided that the approved surveyor or approved testing or servicing facility is authorized by a Recognized Organization authorized by Palau Ship Registry Administrator.
- 7.3 A copy of the test report shall be retained on board the ship.
8. Exemptions
 - 8.1 The Palau Ship Registry Administrator will review the request for issuing exemption for the implementation of the AIS to:
 - a. Vessels without mechanical means of propulsion.
 - b. Vessels that will undertake one single voyage to demolition.
 - 8.2 Exemptions are to be requested through the Recognized Organization to by providing application including conditions for the issuance of the exemption.
9. Monitoring the AIS functionality
 - 9.1 Palau Ship Registry Administration is monitoring the compliance of AIS on the applicable Palau Flag vessels as per paragraph 4 of this Marine Notice.
 - 9.2 For vessels found not transmitting their position, Palau Ship Registry Administration is going to send a notification asking for an explanation and advising for the vessel to restart transmitting its position.
10. Penalties and sanctions for non- compliance of AIS
 - 10.1 For vessels which are not transmitting their position and have not provided the Palau Ship Registry Administrator with a proper justification as per paragraph 6 of this Marine Notice, a penalty fee of up to USD 10,000 may be imposed.
11. Contact
 - 11.1 For further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Technical Department of the Palau Ship Registry Administrator office at technical@palaureg.com

***This Marine Notice supersedes
the Marine Circular 124.1**

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