

Commonwealth of Dominica**Office of the Maritime Administrator**

- TO:** ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF MERCHANT SHIPS
- SUBJECT:** APPOINTMENT OF AUTHORIZED TESTING APPLICATION SERVICE PROVIDERS
- REFERENCE:**
- (a) IMO Resolution MSC.202 (81), Adoption of amendments to the SOLAS, 1974 , as amended, Ch V-19/1.
 - (b) IMO Resolution MSC.263 (84), “Revised Performance standards and functional requirements for the LRIT of ships.”
 - (c) IMO Resolution MSC.211 (81), “Arrangements for the Timely Establishment of the Long-Range Identification and Tracking System.”
 - (d) MSC.1/Circ.1298, MSC.1/Circ.1307 and MSC.1/Circ.1308
- APPLICABILITY:** all Dominica vessels of 300 GT and upwards, passenger vessels, including high-speed passenger crafts and MODUs.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Circular is to bring to the attention of all concerned the information and instructions to assist in complying with the requirements of SOLAS V/19-1 (LRIT). It is intended to provide guidance to owners, operators, managers and masters of Dominica flagged vessels over 300 GT regarding the requirements for conducting conformance testing of shipborne equipment in compliance with Long-Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT) regulations.

BACKGROUND:

SOLAS V/19-1 Long-Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT) requires Ship owners to ensure provision of compliant shipborne equipment meeting the applicable LRIT

regulations, performance standards and functional requirements, and technical specifications. Furthermore, the equipment should be of a type approved by the Administration. For the purpose of demonstrating equipment type approval, the IMO has specified that a LRIT conformance test is to be undertaken by an Application Service Provider (ASP) authorized by the Administration.

REQUIREMENTS:

General

1 Every passenger vessel, including high-speed craft, vessel of 300 gross tonnage and upwards and MODU shall be fitted with LRIT equipment capable of automatically transmitting, every six hours and without human intervention on board, the identity of the ship, the position of the ship and the date and time of the position provided.

2 All shipborne LRIT equipment must be of a type approved by the Administration and must be tested by an Authorized Testing Application Service Provider. A satisfactory test result will be documented in a Conformance test report which needs to be carried on board the ship.

3 All vessels fitted with LRIT equipment are required to obtain an Annual LRIT Certificate. Shipowners shall apply directly to the Authorized Testing Application Service Provider below to obtain this certificate.

Applicable fees are:

- \$1,000 - LRIT Conformance Test Fee and issuance of Initial Conformance Test Certificate (this is only applicable if vessel has not completed initial test under Commonwealth of Dominica);
- \$650 - Annual LRIT Conformance Test Certificate;

Authorized Testing Application Service Providers (ASP)

3 The Commonwealth of Dominica Maritime Administration has authorized *Pole Star Space Applications Limited* as Testing Application Service Provider (ASP). Additional authorized testing ASP's may be added to this list in the future at the discretion of the Administration.

4 All parties concerned with a view to ensuring the timely compliance of the ships they operate, with the provisions of regulation V/19-1, are advised to contact the above Authorized Testing ASPs to make the necessary arrangements for conducting conformance tests set out in MSC.1/Circ.1257 well ahead of the date on which the survey of the radio installation, which determines the date on which the ship is required to comply with the provisions of regulation V/19-1, becomes due.

Conformance Test Process

5 On satisfactory completion of a conformance test, the Authorized Testing ASP will, on behalf of the Commonwealth of Dominica, issue a Conformance test report, certifying that a conformance test of the shipborne equipment has been conducted in accordance with the provisions of MSC.1/Circ. 1257 on Guidance on the survey and certification of compliance of ships with the requirement to transmit LRIT information.

6 Such report will be sent to the Administration to support and serve as the basis for the Conformance Test Report Certificate that will be issued by the Administration to the Ship- owner for placing on board their vessel(s). All vessels must hold such a certificate to comply with SOLAS V/19-1.

7 LRIT shipborne equipment that fails the test shall be upgraded or replaced accordingly.

Contacts

8 Contact details for the Authorized Testing Application Service Providers, are as follows:

Pole Star Space Applications Limited

Compass House, 4th Floor,

22 Redan Place
London W2 4SA

United Kingdom

Tel: + 44 (0) 20 7313 7402

Fax: + 44 (0) 20 7313 7401

Email lrittesting@polestarglobal.com

Website www.polestarglobal.com

9 If a ship owner is in any doubt as to the applicability of SOLAS V/19-1 or for further information regarding LRIT compliance please contact the Commonwealth of Dominica Administration LRIT Coordinator:

Magdalena Jablonowska

Tel: + 1 508 992 7170

e-mail: lrit@dominica-registry.com

-End-