

Testing & Installation of Shipborne AIS

To be read in association with IMO SN/Circ.227 – Guidelines for the Installation of a Shipborne (U)AIS

Live Testing of Shipborne Equipment Ashore (if required)

1. Ensure that the correct licence is held.
2. Ensure that the MMSI used is the one given on the licence.
3. Ensure that programmable data fields, especially Name and IMO number, are always consistent with the MMSI in use.
4. Ensure that the positional data transmitted represents the true location of the equipment (on land) and not a position where the transmissions could be confused with those from a ship.

Physical Installation

1. Ensure that antenna is installed in accordance with IMO guidelines.
2. Remember that the MKD is not just a display, it also contains operational controls and means for entering voyage related data. It should therefore be positioned close to the primary conning position and where it is easily accessible to the OOW.
3. Installation of a pilot plug is mandatory. It should be positioned close to a flat surface large enough to support the pilot's laptop computer and situated in a position from which the pilot will have a clear view ahead out of the bridge windows. An adjacent 240v power supply point is highly desirable and compulsory if the vessel is to operate in certain overseas waters/ports.

Programming

1. MMSI & Callsign:
 - a. Must always be correctly programmed on installation. If there is any doubt about the actual number/callsign to use, consult the ship's radio licence.
 - b. It would appear that some equipments store the MMSI in more than one memory/file. If this is the case, ensure all memory locations are programmed correctly so that there is no chance of the equipment reverting to a factory default setting whilst onboard the ship.
2. Ship's Name and IMO number:
 - a. Ensure that this is entered correctly.

- b. Do not precede the name with M/V, F/V, RMS, FPV or any other initials which are not unique to that vessel. (Use of such initials causes considerable confusion when received information is stored in a database ashore.)
 - c. If any doubt over spelling/no. exists, consult ship's documentation.
3. Ship Type: In accordance with table in guidelines. If in any doubt, consult with ship's Master.

4. Length, Beam and ship's reference position:
 - a. Programme these using the parameters as described in guidelines/equipment installation manual. Remember that there are two reference positions, one for the EXTERNAL GNSS antenna (from which the position is normally taken) and one for the INTERNAL GNSS antenna (which may be used if the external receiver fails).
 - b. Ensure that figures give a reference position which is onboard the ship.

On completion of Installation

1. If at all possible, carry out an operational check with neighbouring ship or VTS centre to establish that information is being transmitted and that values sent are correct.
2. Document all settings programmed into the equipment and leave a copy of this onboard the ship for future reference.

Rob Andrews
UK MCA
15 Dec 03