



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

MARINE INFORMATION NOTE

MIN 298 (M+F)

AIS (Automatic Identification Systems) Operational Notification - Safety of Navigation. ACR/Nauticast AIS.

Notice to all Shipowners, Masters, Operators, Small Craft Vessel Operators, Statutory Harbour Authorities and VTS Authorities.

This notice should replace MIN243 (M+F)

This MIN expires 31 August 2008

PLEASE NOTE:-

Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel and you should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.

Summary

Erroneous AIS transmissions continue to cause concern. MIN 243 (M+F) was published in 2006 to highlight an issue with one make of AIS. However, despite the efforts of the manufacturer and the circulation of MIN 243, the issue remains prevalent. Vessel owners, Masters and Agents of vessels with NAUTICAST AIS installed are now urged to take the simple actions described in this Notice.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The MCA, as the Competent Authority, monitors AIS transmissions in UK waters. It has become evident that a small number of the ACR/Nauticast AIS systems transmit a default MMSI (1193046). This has the potential, in certain circumstances, to cause 'target swap' with a possible consequence that more than one vessel can appear as a single vessel.
- 1.2 Stations undertaking vessel contact pursuant to the requirements of MIN 231 (and its successor MIN 290) should be aware that the vessel name may default to "Nauticast". In this event, it may be necessary to identify a vessel by its position (latitude and longitude) and if that fails, to follow up at its next port.

2. ACR/Nauticast Technical Information

2.1 There are two potential causes of the problem:

- the vessel's MMSI may not have been entered at installation.

- the system memory reverts to default value when external power is lost and the internal memory backup battery becomes discharged.

2.2 The manufacturer is aware of the problem and has taken substantial steps to rectify it. The ACR / Nauticast Technical Information attached as Annex 1 details the actions required and vessels are requested to undertake these actions at the first suitable opportunity.

3. Manufacturer Information

3.1 It is possible that the same problem exists on AIS equipment with the following trade names:

- Raytheon Marine RM808 AIS
- ACR Global Watch UAIS
- Marine Technologies Bridgemate AIS
- Nauticast X-Pack DS

The ACR / Nauticast Technical Bulletin also applies to these systems.

4. ACR's Technical Support (single point of contact)

4.1 For further details or additional help please contact ACR's Technical Support;

ACR Electronics Europe GmbH
 Technical Support
 Handelskai 388 / Top 632
 A – 1070 Vienna, Austria
 Tel: +43 (1) 5 237 237 - 240
 E-mail: technical.support@acr-europe.com

More Information

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ACR / Nauticast™ Technical Information

Default MMSI Settings

We have received reports from some administrations who monitor Class A AIS messages that some of the ACR / Nauticast AIS systems transmit a default MMSI (1193046).

Causes

- User fails to enter an MMSI when system is installed.
- MMSI reverts to default value when external power is lost and the internal memory backup battery becomes discharged.

Corrective Actions

- Users are reminded to check operation of their AIS to assure that an MMSI has been correctly installed in the AIS.
- Users can check for condition of memory backup battery periodically as follows:
- With AIS powered up, check that proper MMSI is entered into the AIS system.
- Remove power from the AIS system for approximately 2 minutes.
- Apply power to the system and check that the correct MMSI is present.
- If step 3) shows default MMSI (1193046), the memory backup battery is probably discharged and must be serviced.

AIS TRANSPONDERS How to Check and Change your MMSI Numbers.

Select from the Main Menu “**Service Configuration**”. Menu is SERVICE password protected with default password “NAUT”. Enter your Service Password when prompted. Use the up and down arrows on keypad to select “Change MMSI / IMO” than press M5 “Select” or “by pressing number 3 on the keypad.

Input your MMSI number and press Save to store data. The unit will reboot itself after pressing Save.

Power unit off and on and verify that the unit reboots with the correct MMSI. If not, see step 4 above.



Step 1 from Main Menu

N 1^19' E 0^13' |1>0.01|2>1.30|3>1.80nm

```
-----
Menu
View +- 1. Messages
      +- 2. AIS Status
      +- 3. Voyage Settings
      +- 4. Ship Settings
Msg.  +- 5. Transponder Configuration
      +- 6. Service Configuration
      +- 7. Display Settings
-----
Displ
```

NUM| Select->| | | |<-Back

Service Configuration Menu.

N 1^21' E 0^14' |1>0.01|2>1.30|3>1.80nm

```
-----
6. Service Configuration
View +- 1. Change Service Password
      +- 2. User Password Settings
      +- 3. Change MMSI / IMO
      +- 4. Restore Factory Settings
-----
Msg.
-----
Displ
```

NUM| Select->| | | |<-Back

Note: MMSI - Data input is limited to 9 characters. Data in window shows default values. Check and Change your MMSI in this window.

N 1^21' E 0^14' |1> N/A|2>0.00|3>0.10nm

```
***** Change MMSI / IMO *****
```

MMSI :1193046
IMO No.:303174162

NUM| Save | | | | Back