



ANNUAL TESTING OF AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (MSC.1/Circ.1252)

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Applicable to: Shipowners, masters and officers of Singapore ships

This circular is to inform shipowners, masters and officers of Singapore ships of the need for the annual testing of Automatic Identification System (AIS) set out in MSC.1/Circ.1252.

AIS is an item required by Reg V/19.2.4 of SOLAS 74 to be fitted on ships and is required to conform to performance standards not inferior to performance standards for AIS adopted at IMO by Resolution MSC.74(69) on 12 May 1998. AIS is subject to annual inspection as part of the renewal, periodical and annual survey in respect of the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate required by Reg I/8 of SOLAS 74.

2 The annual survey is to ensure that the AIS has been maintained to conform with the Performance Standards for AIS set out in Resolution MSC.74(69). One of the means to ensure this, in addition to a physical inspection of the AIS, including its installation arrangement, is by means of testing of the AIS, whose purpose is to determine that the AIS is operational as defined in the performance standards.

3 IMO has developed guidelines on annual testing of AIS set out in the annex of an MSC circular, MSC.1/Circ.1252 (Guidelines On Annual Testing Of The Automatic Identification System (AIS)) dated 22 October 2007 to achieve a uniform and standard method of testing, including a standard format of a test report. A copy of the circular can be found in our website under "Port & Shipping > Circulars & Notices" [Circ1252.pdf](#)

4 It therefore follows that, in carrying out the renewal, periodical and annual survey in respect of the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate required by Reg I/8 of SOLAS 74, annual testing of the AIS fitted on board the ship is inclusive in the survey and is mandatory.

5 Notwithstanding that the annual inspection and testing of the AIS is part of the survey in respect of the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate, paragraph 1 of MSC.1/Circ.1252 states that "the annual testing of the AIS should be carried out by a qualified radio inspector". Therefore the annual inspection and testing of the AIS is best carried out as part of the survey in respect of the Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate.

6 Any queries relating to this circular should be directed to Mr. Tan Leong Beng at Tel No. 6375 6207.

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