MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE IDENTITY

MMSI Overview

Maritime Mobile Service Identities (MMSIs) are nine digit numbers used by maritime digital selective calling (DSC), automatic identification systems (AIS) and certain other equipment to uniquely identify a ship or a coast radio station. MMSIs are regulated and managed internationally by the International Telecommunications Union in Geneva, Switzerland, just as radio call signs are regulated. The MMSI format and use is documented in Article 19 of the ITU Radio Regulations and ITU-R Recommendation M.585-6, available from the ITU.

MMSI Format

Maritime Identification Digits (MID)

MIDs are three digit identifiers ranging from 201 to 775 denoting the administration (country) or geographical area of the administration responsible for the ship station so identified. See the ITU Table of Maritime Identification Digits.

Ships

All ship MMSIs use the format $M_1\ I_2D_3X_4X_5X_6X_7X_8X_9$ where in the first three digits represent the Maritime Identification Digits (MID) and X is any figure from 0 to 9. (Hint: Ships transmitting with an MMSI not starting with the digits 201-775 are likely doing so improperly, and may be subject to FCC or USCG enforcement action)

Groups of Ships (DSC only)

Group ship station call identities for calling simultaneously more than one ship use the format $0_1M_2I_3D_4X_5X_6X_7X_8X_9$, where the first figure is zero and X is any figure from 0 to 9. The MID represents only the territory or geographical area of the administration assigning the group ship station call identity and does not prevent group calls to fleets containing more than one ship nationality.

No process currently exists to assign non-federal group ship station identities. However, users having an MMSI assigned by FCC license, all of which have a trailing zero, may create a group identity by inserting a zero before the identity and removing the trailing zero (e.g. a user having an MMSI of *366123450* is allowed to use the group identity *036612345*).

The U.S. Coast Guard group ship station call identity is 036699999.

Coast Radio Stations (Base Stations)

All coast or base stations use the format $0_10_2M_3I_4D_5X_6X_7X_8X_9$,where the digits 3, 4 and 5 represent the MID and X is any figure from 0 to 9. Groups of DSC coast radio stations use the same format.

The combination $0_10_2M_3I_4D_50_60_70_80_9$ is used to address all 00MIDXXXX DSC stations within the administration. The combination $0_10_29_39_49_50_60_70_80_9$ is used to address all VHF DSC 00MIDXXXX stations worldwide. These two special combinations are not used in the United States.

The U.S. Coast Guard DSC group coast station identity is 003669999.

Search and Rescue Aircraft

AIS and DSC equipment used on search and rescue aircraft use the format $1_11_21_3M_4I_5D_6X_7X_8X_9$ where the digits 4, 5 and 6 represent the MID and X is any figure from 0 to 9. In the United States, these MMSIs are currently only used by the U.S. Coast Guard.

AIS Aids to Navigation (AtoN)

AIS used as an aid to navigation uses the format $9_19_2M_3I_4D_5X_6X_7X_8X_9$ where the digits 3, 4 and 5 represent the MID and X is any figure from 0 to 9. In the United States, these MMSIs are reserved for the federal government.

Craft Associated with a Parent Ship

Stations used on craft associated with a parent ship, such as a launches, tenders, towed vessels, etc. may use the format 9182M3I4D5X6X7X8X9 where the digits 3, 4 and 5 represent the MID and X is any figure from 0 to 9. However, no provision currently exists for assigning these identities in the United States. Thus U.S. craft associated with a parent ship must obtain and use a ships MMSI specifically assigned by the FCC or one of their agents. AIS stations used on such vessels, in lieu of an official call-sign should enter “A” followed by the last 6 digits of the MMSI of the parent vessel onto their AIS Call Sign parameter.

AIS Search and Rescue Transmitter (SART)

AIS search and rescue transmitters (SART) use the format $9_1 7_2 0_3 X_4 X_5 Y_6 Y_7 Y_8 Y_9$, where the digits 4 and 5 are assigned by the International Association for Marine Electronics Companies (CIRM) and refer to the SART manufacturer, and digits 6, 7, 8 and 9 are sequential digits assigned by the manufacturer identifying the SART.

MOB (Man overboard) (RTCM SC119)

The MOB (Man overboard) device that transmits DSC and/or AIS should use an identity $9_1 7_2 2_3 X_4 X_5 Y_6 Y_7 Y_8 Y_9$, (where xx = manufacturer ID 01 to 99 assigned by CIRM; yyyy = the sequence number 0000 to 9999. When reaching 9999 the manufacturer should restart the sequence numbering at 0000.The manufacturer ID xx = 00 is reserved for test purposes). Combination DSC AIS devices will transmit one common user ID.

EPIRB-AIS (RTCM SC110)

The EPIRB-AIS should use an identity $9_1 7_2 4_3 X_4 X_5 Y_6 Y_7 Y_8 Y_9$, (where xx = manufacturer ID 01 to 99; yyyy = the sequence number 0000 to 9999.

When reaching 9999 the manufacturer should restart the sequence numbering at 0000.).

The user identity of the EPIRB-AIS indicates the identity of the homing device of the EPIRB-AIS, and not the MMSI of the ship.

This information is current as of APR 2021. MMSI Format Overview information provided within this document retrieved via LTC Schuchard at the following website: https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=mtmmsi#