



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

MIN 243 (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 MIN expires 16 June 2007

Summary

Erroneous AIS transmissions continue to cause concern. MIN 231 (M+F) requires coastal authorities and shipping to inform vessels of erroneous vessel data being transmitted. Subsequent to the issue of MIN 231, a specific issue has been identified with one make of AIS and this information note requests vessels equipped with this system to take specific action.

1. Introduction/ Background

- 1.1 The MCA, as the UK Competent Authority, monitors AIS transmissions. It has become evident that some 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 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 is taking 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;

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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:
 1. With AIS powered up, check that proper MMSI is entered into the AIS system.
 2. Remove power from the AIS system for approximately 2 minutes.
 3. Apply power to the system and check that the correct MMSI is present.
 4. 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.



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Step 1 from Main Menu

Service Configuration Menu.

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