

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 60-23

NOVEMBER 11, 2021

Information Technology

MARINE SHIP REPORTS TELECOMMUNICATIONS

NOTICE: This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

OPR: W/DIS (B. Werwinski)

Certified by: W/DIS (M. Mainelli-McInerney)

Type of Issuance: Routine

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes the NWSP 60-23, “*Marine Ship Reports Telecommunications*,” dated November 7, 2017. Changes were made to sections 4.3 and 4.4 to clarify language and reflect updates in responsibilities.

1. The Safety-of-Life-at-Sea (SOLAS) Convention (U.S. Treaty) established the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System in 1988. SOLAS established the associated marine ship report requirement to collect the meteorological and oceanographic data needed to provide advance notice of catastrophic weather events to mitigate the loss of lives and the damaging effects of these events on people and property. This directive establishes the program to reimburse commercial companies for the collection and delivery of ship reports to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Weather Service (NWS).

2. The objective of the Marine Ship Report Telecommunications Program is to ensure that ship reports sent from ocean areas adjacent to U.S. coasts to commercial communications stations reach the National Centers for Environment Prediction (NCEP) Central Operations (NCO) in order to provide marine weather forecasts and warnings.

3. To facilitate participation in the program, the NWS will pay the telecommunications costs for all ship reports received at the NCO from commercial companies.

4. This directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:

4.1 The Assistant Administrator for Weather Services is responsible for ensuring NWS compliance with the SOLAS Treaty.

4.2 NCO is responsible for ensuring all international commitments of the NWS regarding the collection and distribution of marine ship reports are met. NCO is also responsible for tracking the number of ship reports received and for ensuring that received ship reports are forwarded to NWS forecasting centers and external users.

4.3 The Office of Dissemination (DIS) is responsible for the financial management of services provided by commercial companies, which provide ship reports to the NWS.

5. The effectiveness of this policy will be determined by the volume of received ship reports.
6. This policy directive is supported by the references and glossary of terms listed in attachment

UCCELLINI.LOUIS.WIL
LIAM.1365821743

Digitally signed by
UCCELLINI.LOUIS.WILLIAM.1365821743
Date: 2021.10.28 11:19:49 -04'00'

10/28/2021

Louis W. Uccellini
Assistant Administrator for Weather Services

Date

Attachment 1

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

References

1. The 1974 Safety-Of-Life-At-Sea (SOLAS) Convention (Chapter IV, Regulation 5- adopted in 1988)
2. International Maritime Organization (IMO) Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) Circular 5, dated November 24, 1994, Master Plan of Shore-based Facilities for the GMDSS (GMDSS Master Plan)
3. WMO – No. 306 Manual on Codes
4. WMO – No. 386 Manual on Codes
5. NDS 10-3 Marine and Coastal Weather Services

Terms

GMDSS – Global Maritime Distress and Safety System
GTS - Global Telecommunication Systems
IMO- International Maritime Organization
INMARSAT- International Maritime Satellite Organization
NCEP- National Center for Environmental Prediction
NCO – NCEP Central Operations
NDS – National Directive System
NWS- National Weather Service
NWSTG- National Weather Service Telecommunication Gateway
SOLAS- Safety-Of-Life-At-Sea
VOS- Voluntary Observing Ship Program
WMO- World Meteorological Organization