



Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention, Chapter V, Regulation 19

2.4 All ships of 300 gross tonnage and upwards engaged on international voyages and cargo ships of 500 gross tonnage and upwards not engaged on international voyages and passenger ships irrespective of size shall be fitted with an automatic identification system (AIS), as follows:

- .1 ships constructed on or after 1 July 2002;
- .2 ships engaged on international voyages constructed before 1 July 2002:
 - .2.1 in the case of passenger ships, not later than 1 July 2003;
 - .2.2 in the case of tankers, not later than the first survey for safety equipment on or after 1 July 2003;
 - .2.3 in the case of ships, other than passenger ships and tankers, of 50,000 gross tonnage and upwards, not later than 1 July 2004;
 - ~~.2.4 in the case of ships, other than passenger ships and tankers, of 10,000 gross tonnage and upwards but less than 50,000 gross tonnage, not later than 1 July 2005;~~
 - ~~.2.5 in the case of ships, other than passenger ships and tankers, of 3,000 gross tonnage and upwards but less than 10,000 gross tonnage, not later than 1 July 2006.~~
 - ~~.2.6 in the case of ships, other than passenger ships and tankers, of 300 gross tonnage and upwards but less than 3,000 gross tonnage, not later than 1 July 2007; and~~
 - .2.4 in the case of ships, other than passenger ships and tankers, of 300 gross tonnage and upwards, but less than 50,000 gross tonnage, not later than the first safety equipment survey¹ after 1 July 2004 or by 31 December 2004, whichever occurs earlier; and
- .3 ships not engaged on international voyages constructed before 1 July 2002, not later than 1 July 2008;
- .4 the Administration may exempt ships from the application of the requirements of this paragraph when such ships will be taken permanently out of service within two years after the implementation date specified in subparagraphs .2 and .3;
- .5 AIS shall:
 - .1 provide automatically to appropriately equipped shore stations, other ships and aircraft information, including the ship's identity, type, position, course, speed, navigational status and other safety-related information;
 - .2 receive automatically such information from similarly fitted ships;
 - .3 monitor and track ships; and
 - .4 exchange data with shore-based facilities;
 - .6 the requirements of paragraph 2.4.5 shall not be applied to cases where international agreements, rules or standards provide for the protection of navigational information; and
 - .7 AIS shall be operated taking into account the guidelines adopted by the Organization. *Ships fitted with AIS shall maintain AIS in operation at all times except where international agreements, rules or standards provide for the protection of navigational information.*

¹The first safety equipment survey means the first annual survey, the first periodical survey of the first renewal survey for safety equipment, whichever is due first after 1 July 2004 and, in addition, the case of ships under construction, the initial survey.

Source: International Maritime Organization (IMO) Resolution MSC.99(73) adopted December 12th, 2000 and entered into force July 1st, 2002; as amended by SOLAS Resolution CONF.5/32 adopted December 13th, 2002 and entered into force July 1st, 2004

U.S. Code, Title 46, § 70114. Automatic identification system

- (a) SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS.--(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the following vessels, while operating on the navigable waters of the United States, shall be equipped with and operate an automatic identification system under regulations prescribed by the Secretary:
 - (A) A self-propelled commercial vessel of at least 65 feet overall in length.
 - (B) A vessel carrying more than a number of passengers for hire determined by the Secretary.
 - (C) A towing vessel of more than 26 feet overall in length and 600 horsepower.
 - (D) Any other vessel for which the Secretary decides that an automatic identification system is necessary for the safe navigation of the vessel.
- (2) The Secretary may--
 - (A) exempt a vessel from paragraph (1) if the Secretary finds that an automatic identification system is not necessary for the safe navigation of the vessel on the waters on which the vessel operates; and
 - (B) waive the application of paragraph (1) with respect to operation of vessels on navigable waters of the United States specified by the Secretary if the Secretary finds that automatic identification systems are not needed for safe navigation on those waters.
- (b) REGULATIONS.--The Secretary shall prescribe regulations implementing subsection (a), including requirements for the operation and maintenance of the automatic identification systems required under subsection (a).

§ 70117. Civil Penalties

- (e) PHASE-IN OF AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM.--
 - (1) SCHEDULE.--Section 70114 of title 46, United States Code, as enacted by this Act, shall apply as follows:
 - (A) On and after January 1, 2003, to any vessel built after that date.
 - (B) On and after July 1, 2003, to any vessel built before the date referred to in subparagraph (A) that is--
 - (i) a passenger vessel required to carry a certificate under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS);
 - (ii) a tanker; or
 - (iii) a towing vessel engaged in moving a tank vessel.
 - (C) On and after December 31, 2004, to all other vessels built before the date referred to in subparagraph (A).

Source: Section 102 of the Marine Transportation Security Act of 2002, P. Law 107-29, enacted November 25th, 2002