

1 Linked Text Version: 1

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DAC: 367 FI: 29

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Summary of changes:

Release Version 1a:

- added clarifying usage notes.

Release Version 1:

- changed DAC to 367 to reflect final message. Set to version 1.
- added message version.
- changed name to Linked Text to differentiate from International version.

Previous changes to drafts:

- added variable number of spare bits to make message end on even byte boundary.

1.1 Introduction

The purpose of the Linked Text message is to provide clarifying/additional information about another a feature or event transmitted in another AIS Application-Specific Message (ASM). **As such, this message is always used in combination with another ASM.**

1.2 Usage notes

1. The Message Linkage ID is used to connect the Linked Text message to another AIS ASM (e.g., Geographic Notice, Waterways Management or Environmental).
2. The same source MMSI must be used to send both the main message and Linked Text message.
3. This message can be broadcast or addressed, but must be the same as the main message that it is linked to.
4. Up to 5-slot messages can be created, however messages greater than 3 slots should be avoided.
5. The recipients should remove (delete) the Linked Text message when the message it is linked to is updated or expires.

6. Multiple Linked Text Messages may be used; in which case the recipient should display all of them, one per line. There is no guarantee that they will be transmitted in any certain order so each Linked Text Message should stand on its own.

1.3 Message Format

Table 1: Linked Text Message– Broadcast

	Parameter	# of bits	Description	
Standard Message header	Message ID	6	Identifier for Message 8; always 8.	
	Repeat Indicator	2	Used by the repeater to indicate how many times a message has been repeated. (See ITU-R M.1371-3, Annex 2, § 4.6.1). 0 – 3; 0 = default; 3 = do not repeat any more. Set to 0 (default).	
	Source ID	30	MMSI number of source station.	
	Spare	2	Not used. Set to zero.	
Binary Data	Designated Area Code	10	Designated area code (DAC). (See Rec. ITU-R M.1371-3 § 2.1, Annex 5). Set to 367 (US).	
	Function Identifier	6	Function identifier. Set to 29.	
	Application Data	Message Version	6	Sequential number used to indicate the message version in steps of 1. Range from 1 to 63. Value of 0 means test message. Set to 1.
		Message Linkage ID	10	A source-specific running number, unique across all binary messages equipped with Message Linkage ID. Used to connect the additional information in this Linked Text message with another ASM. The Message Linkage ID and the first six digits of the source MMSI uniquely identify the sent message. 1 – 1,023; 0 = not available = default.
		Text String	6 - 960	Free text 1 - 160 characters 6-bits ASCII as per Table 44 in ITU-R M.1371-4, Annex 8. Number of slots used should be minimized, refer to Table 2.
		Spare	0 - 7	From 0 to 7 spare bits are added to make the total message length an even number of bytes. Set all spare bits to 0.
	Total	72 – 1,032	Occupies 1 - 5 slots (see Table 14.2)	

Table 2: Number of slots if sent as a broadcast message

Number of characters in the message	1-11	12-49	50-86	87-123	124-160
Number of slots used	1	2	3	4	5

Table 3: Linked Text Message – Addressed

	Parameter	# of bits	Description	
Standard Message header	Message ID	6	Identifier for Message 6; Set to 6 addressed , acknowledgement needed.	
	Repeat Indicator	2	Used by the repeater to indicate how many times a message has been repeated. (See ITU-R M.1371-3, Annex 2, § 4.6.1). 0-3; 0 = default; 3 = do not repeat any more. Set to 0 (default) .	
	Source MMSI	30	MMSI number of source station. Varies according to the transmitter ID.	
	Sequence number	2	0 – 3; refer to ITU-R M.1371-3, Annex 2, § 5.3.1.	
	Destination MMSI	30	MMSI number of destination station.	
	Retransmit Flag	1	Retransmit Flag. 0 = no retransmission = default; 1 = retransmitted.	
	Spare	1	Not used. Set to zero .	
Binary Data	Designated Area Code	10	Designated area code (DAC). (See Rec. ITU-R M.1371-3 § 2.1, Annex 5). Set to 367 (US) .	
	Function Identifier	6	Function identifier. Set to 29 .	
	Application Data	Message Version	6	Sequential number used to indicate the message version in steps of 1. Range from 1 to 63. Value of 0 means test message. Set to 1 .
		Message Linkage ID	10	A source-specific running number, unique across all binary messages equipped with Message Linkage ID. Used to connect the additional information in this Linked Text message with another ASM. The Message Linkage ID and the first six digits of the source MMSI uniquely identify the sent message. 1 – 1,023; 0 = not available = default .
		Text String	6 - 924	Free text 1 - 154 characters 6-bits ASCII as per Table 44 in ITU-R M.1371-4, Annex 8. Number of slots used should be minimized, refer to Table 2.
		Spare	0 - 7	From 0 to 7 spare bits are added to make the total message length an even number of bytes. Set all spare bits to 0.
	Total	104 – 1,032	Occupies 1 - 5 slots (see Table 14.2)	