
4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LONDON SE1 7SR
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

SN.1/Circ.322
24 June 2013

**INFORMATION ON THE DISPLAY OF AIS-SART,
AIS MAN OVERBOARD AND EPIRB-AIS DEVICES**

- 1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-second session (12 to 21 June 2013), noted the issue of developments in location devices using AIS technology.
- 2 Although international and national consideration of these devices is ongoing, they are available for use and will be displayed on shipborne AIS equipment. Therefore, it was considered that information for seafarers was needed. Accordingly, the Committee approved the circulation of the attached information to seafarers on the display of AIS-SART, AIS Man overboard (MOB) and EPIRB-AIS devices, prepared by the Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR), at its seventeenth session (21 to 25 January 2013), taking into account the recommendation of the Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation (NAV), at its fifty-eighth session (2 to 6 July 2012).
- 3 The Committee further noted that the use of these devices might need to be reviewed in the more general context of GMDSS and the role of AIS. This information, therefore, might be reviewed during the process of review and modernization of the GMDSS.
- 4 Member Governments are invited to bring the information to the attention of all parties concerned.

ANNEX

**INFORMATION ON THE DISPLAY OF AIS-SART,
AIS MAN OVERBOARD AND EPIRB-AIS DEVICES**

1 This circular provides information on the display of AIS-SART, AIS Man Overboard (MOB) and EPIRB-AIS devices today. AIS-SARTs (AIS-search and rescue transmitters) are part of the GMDSS and have been able to be used as an alternative to radar (X-band) search and rescue radar transponders (SARTs) on SOLAS ships since 1 January 2010.

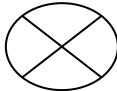
2 EPIRB-AIS devices will be 406 MHz distress alerting devices that contain an additional AIS transmitter developed using the same AIS-SART technology, where the AIS component is used as an aid in locating that EPIRB-AIS.

3 AIS Man Overboard (MOB) devices are now available as locating aids for persons at risk in the water. Once such a situation has been determined as being an emergency, AIS Man Overboard (MOB) devices may be used as an aid in locating that person.


4 In order to protect the integrity of the VHF data link used by AIS, AIS devices, including AIS-MOB devices, are not intended to be used to routinely locate or track people not being in an emergency situation.

AIS-SART

5 AIS-SARTs may be indicated on a newer graphical display of AIS by a circle with an "X" inside it, as shown (extract from SN.1/Circ.243/Add.1):

Topic	Symbol
<p>AIS search and rescue transmitter (AIS-SART)</p>	

6 Alternatively, the AIS-SART may be indicated on an older graphical display of AIS as a normal (sleeping) AIS target (isosceles triangle), as shown (extract from SN.1/Circ.243), taking into account that the triangle may be oriented by Course over Ground (COG):

Topic	Symbol
<p>AIS Target</p>	

7 The symbol remains the same, whether the AIS-SART is in Active or Test Mode; however, there is associated message text displayed, when an AIS-SART target is selected.

8 An AIS-SART uses the following associated message text:

SART ACTIVE means an AIS-SART in Active Mode.

SART TEST means an AIS-SART in Test Mode.

The maritime identity format used is: 970xxyyyy (where "xxyyyy" are numerals from 0 to 9)

AIS Man Overboard (MOB)

9 A Man Overboard (MOB) device using AIS will be displayed in the same way as an AIS-SART (see paragraphs 5 to 7 above).

10 A Man Overboard (MOB) device using AIS may use the same associated message text as in paragraph 8 above, but newer devices might have associated message text displayed as follows:

MOB ACTIVE indicates an AIS-based MOB device in Active Mode.

MOB TEST indicates an AIS-based MOB device in Test Mode.

The maritime identity format used is: 972xxyyyy (where "xxyyyy" are numerals from 0 to 9).

EPIRB-AIS

11 EPIRB-AIS devices will be displayed in the same way as an AIS-SART (see paragraphs 5 to 7 above).

12 EPIRB-AIS devices may use the same associated message text as in paragraph 8 above, but newer devices might have associated message text displayed as follows:

EPIRB ACTIVE indicates a 406 MHz EPIRB that contains an additional AIS transmitter indicating that the EPIRB is in Active Mode.

EPIRB TEST indicates a 406 MHz EPIRB that contains an additional AIS transmitter indicating that the EPIRB is in Test Mode.

The maritime identity used is: 974xxyyyy (where "xxyyyy" are numerals from 0 to 9).

13 The user identity of the EPIRB-AIS indicates the identity of the AIS transmitter of the EPIRB-AIS and not the MMSI of the ship.
