

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 60-23
MAY 30, 2012

Information Technology

MARINE SHIP REPORTS TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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OPR: W/OPS34 (B. Werwinski)

Certified by: W/OPS (R. Vogt)

Type of Issuance: Routine

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes the National Directive System (NDS) Policy Directive 60-23, Marine Ship Reports Telecommunications, dated March 4, 2004. Changes made are: 1) Telecommunications Operations Center (TOC) was moved from the Office of the Chief Information Office (OCIO) to the Office of Operational Systems (OPS) in 2010.

1. The Safety-Of-Life-At-Sea (SOLAS) Convention (U.S. Treaty) established the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System in 1988 and the associated marine ship report requirement to collect the meteorological and oceanographic data needed to provide advance notice of catastrophic weather events in order 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 NWS Telecommunication Gateway (NWSTG) 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 NWSTG 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 The OPS is responsible for ensuring all international commitments of the NWS regarding the collection and distribution of marine ship reports are met.

4.3 The OPS Telecommunication Gateway Operations Branch (OPS32), TOC and OPS are responsible for monitoring the number of ship reports received and for ensuring that received ship reports are forwarded to NWS forecasting centers and external users.

4.4 The OPS Telecommunications Infrastructure Branch (OPS34), TOC and OPS are responsible for the acquisition and 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 1.

signed

May 16, 2012

Date

John L. Hayes
Assistant Administrator for Weather Services

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 the Global Telecommunication System
5. NDS 10-3 Marine and Coastal Weather Services

Terms

GMDSS - Global Maritime Distress and Safety System
GTS - Global Telecommunication System
IMO - International Maritime Organization
INMARSAT - International Maritime Satellite Organization
NCEP - National Center for Environmental Prediction
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