

Marine Mobile Service Identifiers

1. Since 2000 AIS equipment has been applied onboard inland navigation vessels, and the onshore Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) monitoring of navigation using AIS technologies has been started. Earlier, this technology was implemented for sea-going vessels. Onboard AIS equipment is manufactured at the present time on the basis of one of the following two standards:

- for sea-going ships being under the scope of Chapter V of SOLAS - Recommendation ITU-R M.1371- 4 Technical characteristics for an automatic identification system using time division multiple access in the VHF maritime mobile band (and IALA Technical Clarifications);
- for inland navigation vessels – Inland AIS Standard - Resolution 63 “UNECE International Standard for Tracking and Tracing on Inland Waterways (VTT)”.

The majority of parameters of both equipment types are compatible, and both vessels and onshore VTS are able to identify each other.

The main parameter for vessel identification is the unique Maritime Mobile Service Identity number, MMSI. MMSI is assigned to sea-going ships covered by Chapter V of SOLAS and vessels engaged on coastal navigation after the ship is built, according to Section VI, Article 19 of the Radio Regulations (Volume 1, 2008). The assigned MMSI is used for identification of onboard radio equipment, thus for identification of the ship itself, and accompanies the ship through her life, until she is scrapped. This information is integrated to AIS software and is shown in AIS standard messages.

Unlike to sea-going ships, there was no need for assigning MMSI to inland navigation vessels. But, since AIS equipment has been installed onboard inland navigation vessels, there is also a need to assign MMSI for them as an integral part of AIS equipment. Up to the present time the procedure of MMSI assigning for them is not stated by the norms and regulations.

This fact was reflected in some RIS standards and similar documents, in particular:

1) VTT standard – UNECE Resolution No. 63 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/176)

2.3.6 Unique identifier

In order to guarantee compatibility with maritime vessels, the Maritime Mobile Service Identifier (MMSI) number must be used as a unique station identifier (radio equipment identifier) for the Inland AIS transponders.

2) COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 415/2007 of 13 March 2007 concerning the technical specifications for vessel tracking and tracing systems referred to in Article 5 of Directive 2005/44/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on harmonised river information services (RIS) on inland waterways in the Community

2.3.6. *Unique identifier*

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3) Regional Arrangement on the Radiocommunication Service for Inland Waterways (RAINWAT)

(Basel, 06.04.2000, the latest version, Bucuresti, 18.04.2012)

“ANNEX 6. SHIPS IDENTIFICATION DATABASE

1. GENERAL

A ships identification database has been elaborated. It contains all call signs, the official names of ships, ATIS codes and MMSI of the countries having signed the “Regional Arrangement on the Radiocommunication Service for Inland Waterways”.

The database format shall be the following:

Column 1: call sign, maximum 10 signs

Column 2: ship’s name, maximum 50 signs

Column 3: ATIS code, maximum 10 signs

Column 4: MMSI, maximum 9 signs

Example:

call	ship	atis	mmsi
LZFF	RADETZKI	9207260606	207260606
LZFK	POLARIS	9207260611	207345200
LZG2222	POLARIS - 1	9207072222	207072222
LZG2223	HEINRICH HEINE	9207072223	207072223
LZG2224	PHOENIX	9207072224	207072224
LZG2225	Sv. Ap. JOAN	9207072225	207072225
LZG2226	ASTOM	9207072226	207072226
LZG2227	VALMAR	9207072227	207072227
LZG2228	BOROSS	9207072228	207072228
LZG2229	ELEGANT LADY	9207072229	207072229

MMSI and/or make the respective entrance to the ship’s certificate.

In order to prevent this situation, Russia made the following proposal.

2. In 2009, in the context of the resolutions on River Information Service (RIS) adopted by the Working Party (Resolution No. 48 on Electronic Chart Display and Information System for Inland Navigation, Resolution No. 57 on Guidelines and Recommendations for River Information Services, Resolution No. 60 on International standards for notices to skippers and for electronic ship reporting in inland navigation and Resolution No. 63 on International Standards for Tracking and Tracing in Inland Waterways), UNECE secretariat published the latest (at that moment) communications from Governments on their progress in introducing river information services on their inland waterways. This information is published as ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/13. In particular, the Russian Federation proposed:

- to discuss the possibility of elaboration by the UNECE of the recommendations on the purpose of user identifiers for Maritime Mobile Service Identifier (MMSI) to be used in the AIS transponders on inland vessels, which are not covered by Chapter V of the 1974 SOLAS Convention;

- to include information on MMSI in the ship’s certificate, as defined in the UNECE Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-Wide Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels (Resolution No. 61). The goal is to ensure a harmonized use of MMSI by all vessels, carrying out inland water transport operations, as the AIS transponders cannot properly function without MMSI.

(ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/13, paras. 3 – 10)

3. At the 53rd session of SC.3 the Working Party discussed the proposal of the Russian Federation to develop recommendations on gradual introduction of mobile vessel AIS stations (transponders) for inland vessels and on the purpose of user identifiers for Maritime Mobile Safety Identifier (MMSI) to be used in the AIS transponders on inland vessels.

(ECE/TRANS/SC.3/183, para. 31)

4. At the 38th session of SC.3/WP.3 the Russian Federation submitted a proposal on elaboration by the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) of recommendations on the Maritime Mobile Service identifiers, submitted in accordance with the decision of the fifty-third session of SC.3.

The general approach was proposed in developing the UNECE recommendations on assigning MMSI to stations of inland navigation vessels, as follows:

(a) To recognize as required and to recommend to competent Governments to extend to inland navigation vessels the provisions of Section VI of Articles 19 of the Instructions for the radio communication (Volume 1, 2008) concerning the Identifier of the Maritime Mobile Service;

(b) During the installation of the AIS equipment on an inland navigation vessel, the MMSI should be added to the ship certificate, delivered in accordance with national legislation or the European standards;

(c) Depending on the class of the vessel, MMSI can be assigned to the vessel or to the radio installation (vessel AIS station).

(Informal document SC.3/WP.3 No. 4 (2011))

The Working Party took note of the proposal by the Russian Federation invited the delegations to consider the proposed approach and submit their preliminary position by 31 March 2011, so that the secretariat could present an official proposal on this issue for the SC.3/WP.3 thirty-ninth session.

(ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/76, para.53)

5. At the 39th session, the proposal was reproduced in ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2011/16 and discussed under item 8 of the agenda. SC.3/WP.3 noted that no delegations had submitted serious objections to this proposal and invited the Russian Federation to submit the draft text of the recommendation for the fifty-fifth session of SC.3.

(ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2011/16, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/78, para. 37)

6. According to the aforementioned decision of the Working Party, the proposal was submitted for the 41st session of SC.3/WP.3 which is represented in ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2012/15. In particular, it was proposed to amend Chapter 2 of Resolution 61 as follows:

(i) Add to paragraph 2-7.3.1 the following subparagraph 15:

“15. MMSI (Maritime Mobile Service Identifier) number” ;

(ii) In paragraph 2-7.3.2, delete subparagraph 8 and renumber subparagraphs 9 and 10.

The Working Party considered the proposal of the Russian Federation, made some corrections and asked the secretariat to transmit the proposal of the Russian Federation to SC.3 for consideration and action as appropriate.

(ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/82, paras. 37 - 39)

7. This proposal was reproduced in ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2012/10. SC.3 at its 56th session took note of proposals of the Russian Federation to elaborate special recommendations in order to introduce the Maritime Mobile Service Identifiers (MMSI) in relevant UNECE resolutions (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2012/10). Regarding the proposal to amend paragraphs 2–7.3.1 and 2–7.3.2 of Chapter 2 of Resolution No. 61 as suggested in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2012/10, the Working Party decided to refer this question to the Group of Volunteers on Resolution No. 61. (*ECE/TRANS/SC.3/193, paras. 41 - 42*).

8. So, the following is proposed to discuss at the 7th meeting of the Group of Volunteers:

To introduce the following changes to Chapter 2 (marked bold):

CHAPTER 2

PROCEDURE AND RULES FOR THE INSPECTION OF INLAND NAVIGATION VESSELS

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2-7 UNIQUE EUROPEAN VESSEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

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2-7.3 Data for the identification of a vessel

2-7.3.1 All vessels

1. Unique European Identification Number
2. Name of the vessel
3. Type of vessel as defined in Article 1–2
4. Length overall
5. Breadth overall
6. Draught as defined in Article 1–2
7. Source of data (ship's certificate)
8. Deadweight for cargo vessels
9. Displacement for vessels other than cargo vessels
10. Operator (owner or their representative), if possible with regard to privacy
11. Issuing Authority
12. Number of ship's certificate
13. Expiration date of ship's certificate
14. Creator of dataset (in case of electronic databases)
- 15. MMSI (Maritime Mobile Service Identifier) number**

2-7.3.2 Where available

1. National number
2. Type of vessel in accordance with the International Standard for Notices to Skippers and for Electronic Ship Reporting in Inland Navigation (Resolution No. 60)
3. Single or double hull in accordance with ADN
4. Height as defined in Article 1–2
5. Gross tonnage (for sea-going ships)
6. IMO number (for sea-going ships)
7. Call sign (for sea-going ships)
8. ~~MMSI (Maritime Mobile Service Identity) number~~
- 8 9-** ATIS (Automatic Transmitter Identification System) code
- 9 10-** Type, number, issuing authority and expiration date of other certificates