

Subject:
RESPONSES TO COUNCIL QUESTIONS
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Date:
Wed, 19 Apr 2006 12:33:37 -0400
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Mike & Don -

Greetings from Silver Spring.

I forward herein responses to the questions asked by the Council during my AIS presentation at the April meeting.

Q: Is there a way to decrease signal strength of the AIS unit and, thereby, reduce the electronic footprint of one's AIS signal?

A: The output power (which directly governs the electronic footprint size) is specified by International Telecommunications Union/IEC standards for type-approved AIS units. The power requirements are:

*AIS-A; 12 watts (default) and 2 watts (only via a telecommand/assignment)
AIS-B; 2 watts (default/only) - again, I caution that I cannot say for absolute certain that AIS-B will meet the AIS carriage requirements of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002.*

Tampering with type-certified/approved equipment will void the unit's CG approval as well as the FCC certification and would be a violation.

Q: Can the Council get a copy of the report/letter that the CG provided Congress addressing comments received relative to AIS carriage.

*A: Here is a link to an electronic copy of the letter sent by the Coast Guard to both the Vice President (President of the Senate) and the Speaker of the House discussing comments received during our public comment period.
http://dmses.dot.gov/docimages/pdf88/257916_web.pdf*

Q: One slide showed a bar-graph indicating 138 vessels were lost due to collision/allision/grounding between 1994 and 2000. Of those 138 vessels, how many were commercial fishing vessels?

A: On closer inspection, that number of 138 may be deceptively low. Here is a link to a report specifically examining fishing vessel losses from 1994 to 2004. It makes for some very eye-opening reading.

http://homeport.uscg.mil/cgi-bin/st/portal/uscg_docs/MyCG/Editorial/20060217/FVStudy94_04_2.pdf?id=d616bb64865b71c9bb8708de7341a524ed576b93

Q: Regarding comments received during the public comment period on AIS, how many of the ~200 comments the Coast Guard received came from individuals and how many came from groups of individuals?

A: Here is a link to (99 pages-worth) of the comments received. The cover page will give you a pretty good idea of which comments are individual and which are corporate.

<http://dms.dot.gov/search/searchResultsAdvanced.cfm?docketNumber=14878&searchType=document>

Hopefully these answer the Council's mail. If they spark additional questions, feel free to contact either me or Mr. Jorge Arroyo (Jarroyo@comdt.uscg.mil); we'll do our level-best to answer any questions folks may have. There is a possibility that a link above may not work if it is to the Coast Guard intranet - if that is the case, drop me a line and I will either copy the document in question and e-mail you a .pdf file or I will print it out and mail you a hard copy.

*Best regards
- Bob*

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