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COMDTINST 5230.80 DECEMBER 16, 2011

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 5230.80

- Subj: POLICY FOR THE SHARING OF AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AIS) INFORMATION THAT IS COLLECTED BY THE COAST GUARD NATIONWIDE AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (NAIS)
- Ref: (a) DHS Management Directive No. 11042.1 (Safeguarding Sensitive but Unclassified Information)
 - (b) The Coast Guard Freedom of Information (FOIA) and Privacy Acts Manual, COMDTINST M5260.3 (Series)
 - (c) DHS Information Sharing and Access Agreements Guidebook and Templates
- 1. <u>PURPOSE</u>. The purpose of this Instruction is to provide guidance to the United States Coast Guard (USCG) program managers and field units on sharing information that is collected by USCG's Nationwide Automatic Identification System (NAIS, a network of USCG-owned and -operated terrestrial AIS receivers, buoys, platforms, aircraft and vessels) with foreign governments, Federal, State, local, and tribal government agencies, and non-governmental entities.
- 2. <u>ACTION</u>. All USCG unit commanders, commanding officers, officers-in-charge, deputy/assistant commandants, and chiefs of headquarters staff elements shall comply with the provisions of this Instruction.
- 3. **<u>DIRECTIVES AFFECTED</u>**. None.
- 4. <u>BACKGROUND</u>. The AIS was developed to enhance navigation safety through collision avoidance, waterways management, and surveillance. It is a maritime digital broadcast technology that continually transmits and receives voiceless exchange of vessel data. The AIS technology and

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communication protocol have been adopted by the International Maritime Organization as a global standard for ship-to-ship, ship-to-shore, and shore-to-ship communication of navigation information. In accordance with Section 80.393 of the Rules and Regulations of the Federal Communications Commission (47 C.F.R. §80.393), "Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) is a maritime broadcast service." As a broadcast system (where communications are intended to be received by the public), there is no expectation of privacy with regard to any information transmitted on AIS. In accordance with the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002, the USCG developed a two-way maritime data communication system based on AIS technology, which is referred to as NAIS.

Sharing information collected by NAIS with both governmental and non-governmental entities will result in (1) improved navigation safety and mariners' situational awareness; (2) enhanced ability to identify and track vessels; and (3) heightened overall awareness of global maritime transactions to address threats to maritime transportation safety and security. Enhanced safety and security facilitates economic development, the free-flow of international commerce, and targeted environmental protection and conservation efforts.

5. POLICY.

- a. <u>Levels of Information Sharing</u>. The following three levels pertain to information collected by NAIS:
 - (1) <u>Level A</u>. Level A is unfiltered (real-time) information collected by NAIS that is less than 96 hours from initial time of transmission. Level A information may only be shared with U.S. or foreign government agencies ("Level A Entities") for legitimate internal government use (i.e., law enforcement, maritime safety, defense, and security purposes). This information should be handled as "For Official Use Only" (FOUO), in accordance with reference (a), or any successor controlled unclassified information designation due to potential sensitivities of the information collected by NAIS, including any unfiltered, addressed, voyage-related, or encrypted information.

<u>NOTE</u>. Level A Entities are entitled to complete access to all levels of information collected by NAIS.

- (2) <u>Level B</u>. Level B is filtered (real-time) information collected by NAIS that is less than 96 hours from initial time of transmission which may be shared with (collectively, "Level B Entities"):
 - (a) Foreign governments or U.S. Federal, State, local and tribal government agencies;
 - (b) Non-governmental entities that are contractually supporting a Federal government agency's operations or research and development efforts;
 - (c) USCG-validated port partners (e.g., maritime industry partners, port authorities, pilot associations, etc.); and
 - (d) Non-governmental entities with which the U.S. has an established or formalized relationship.

This information should be handled as FOUO in accordance with reference (a), or any successor controlled unclassified information designation, due to potential sensitivities of the information collected by NAIS, including any unfiltered, addressed, voyage-related, or encrypted information.

- (3) <u>Level C</u>. Level C is filtered and unfiltered historical information collected by NAIS that is more than 96 hours from initial time of transmission. Governmental requests (i.e., requests from Level A Entities or governmental Level B Entities) will normally be granted. Requests for access to Level C historical information will be granted to all non-governmental Level B Entities and to other public requests in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. §552 and reference (b). For more information on the process for handling these requests, see paragraph 5.c.below.
- b. <u>Description of Filtered Information Collected by NAIS for Level B and Level C (real-time and historical)</u>. (See Enclosure (1)).
 - Message 5 Voyage-Related Information. Message 5 contains voyage-related data such as ship and cargo type, ETA and destination. Message 5 may be filtered either through selective filtering or filtering of the entire message, as NAIS system filtering capabilities become available.
 - (2) <u>Messages 6 and 8 BFT/STEDS Information</u>. Message 6 is an addressed application specific message and Message 8 is an application specific message which may contain important navigational information that is also used for encrypted BFT/ STEDS information. BFT/STEDS information contained in Messages 6 and 8 may be filtered either through selective filtering or filtering of the entire message, depending on the security risk that may result from the information's release. As encrypted BFT/STEDS information is migrated to Messages 25 and 26, at a minimum, the BFT/STEDS information may be filtered from these messages.

<u>NOTE</u>. BFT/STEDS information will normally be filtered from all requests for Level C historical information received from non-governmental Level B Entities and the public. Additionally, BFT/STEDS information will normally be filtered from all requests for Level B real-time information feeds received from non-governmental Level B Entities.

- (3) Message 6 and 12 Addressed Messages. Message 6 is an addressed application specific message and Message 12 is an addressed safety-related text message. These messages are sent station-to-station (i.e. intended recipients) not as a general broadcast. Messages 6 and 12 will be filtered, either through selective filtering or filtering of the entire message, as NAIS filtering capabilities become available. This filtering is based on USCG interpretation of the Communications Act of 1934's protection of addressed communications not transmitted for the use of the general public. (See 47 U.S.C. section 605(a)).
- c. <u>Process for Adjudicating Requests for Access and Sharing of Information Collected by NAIS</u>. Requests for Level A and Level B real-time information feeds will be initiated via the USCG

Navigation Center (NAVCEN) website set forth in paragraph 5.c.(1)(a) below. Requests by all Level B Entities for Level C historical information will be initiated via the NAVCEN website in paragraph 5.c.(2)(a) below. All other non-governmental or other public requests for Level C historical information will only be accepted via the FOIA process.

- (1) <u>Requests for Level A and Level B Real-Time Information</u>.
 - (a) <u>Website</u>. The following is the NAVCEN website for requesting Level A and Level B real-time data feeds:

http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=dataRequest&dataRequest=aisDataFeedReque stForm

- (b) <u>Process</u>. NAVCEN will conduct an initial review of all requests for NAIS data feed, and develop a recommendation, in consultation with the NAIS System Owner, Commandant (CG-761) when necessary, on whether the request should be approved, whether the requestor should receive a full feed or filtered subset (see paragraph 5.b. above for types of filtering), as well as the data feed expiration date. The recommendation will be forwarded to the NAVCEN approving authority for action. Policy issues may be forwarded to the designated NAIS Program Sponsor and/or the NAIS System Owner, Commandant (CG-761) for clarification before final determination, if required.
- (c) <u>Approval/Disapproval</u>. Approved requests will be forwarded to the NAIS information Systems Security Officer (ISSO) for establishment of the Interconnection Security Agreement (ISA) which is required for all live connections to the USCG data network. The ISA must be signed by the requestor, the NAIS System Owner, Commandant (CG-761), and the NAIS Designated Approval/Accreditation Authority, Commandant (CG-633). Upon notification of completion of the ISA, NAVCEN will establish the connection. If the data request is disapproved, NAVCEN Electronic Tracking Branch will prepare a disapproval letter for the designated NAVCEN approving authority signature and delivery to requestor. Additionally, if requestors are unresponsive for 30 days or more, provided there was regular follow-up, the associated requests may be disapproved due to lack of engagement.
- (d) <u>Considerations and/or Geographic Limitations of Release for Level B Real-Time</u> <u>Information</u>. The NAVCEN approval authority may take the following into consideration when responding to a request for Level B real-time information:
 - 1. The category of the requestor (i.e. Level A Entity or Level B Entity);
 - 2. Whether the scope of the request (i.e. geographic) is consistent with the stated intended use;
 - 3. Commercial sensitivity, and other factors, as applicable; and
 - 4. The type of filtering that can be applied.

<u>NOTE</u>. Level A Entities and governmental Level B Entities are entitled to complete access to all levels of information collected by NAIS since only governmental entities will be approved for a Level A unfiltered real-time feed. BFT/STEDS information will normally be filtered from all requests for Level B real-time information received from non-governmental Level B Entities.

- (e) Additional Administrative Requirements for Levels A and B Real Time Information.
 - 1. <u>Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Government Agencies</u>. In addition to executing the ISA noted above, any additional documentation deemed appropriate by USCG, including but not limited to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/ Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) (i.e. Information Sharing Access Agreement (ISAA)) in accordance with reference (c) and any USCG policy that may be promulgated, is required.
 - 2. Foreign Government Agencies. All requests for the sharing of information collected by NAIS directly with foreign governments shall be coordinated with and through the Foreign Disclosure Office within Commandant (CG-22). In consultation with Commandant (DCO-I), DCMS-34 and Commandant (CG-0941), as appropriate, Commandant (CG-22) will approve or deny foreign access to Level A and Level B real-time information, the provisions of an international agreement or MOU/MOA outlining the relevant authorities, government interests furthered, roles and responsibilities of the parties, and steps that will be taken to ensure the proper oversight and security of the information. Agreements with foreign governments shall specify that NAIS information outside of foreign governments will result in termination of NAIS connection and associated agreement.
 - 3. <u>Non-Governmental Entities</u>. In addition to executing the ISA noted above, nongovernmental entities, other than USCG validated port partners, are required to submit additional documentation (e.g. MOU, MOA, or contractual arrangement which supports a Federal government agency's operations or research and development efforts) as applicable. See paragraphs 5.a. (2) (b) and (d).
- (2) Requests for Level C Historical Information.
 - (a) The following are the two methods for requesting Level C historical information:
 - 1. Requests from Level A and Level B Entities should be submitted via the following NAVCEN website:

http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=dataRequest&dataRequest=aisHistoricalRe questForm

<u>NOTE</u>. Requests for Level C historical information by non-governmental Level B Entities should be reviewed using the same criteria as public requests for Level C

historical information (e.g. FOIA requests reviewed pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552 and reference (b)).

- 2. All other public requests for Level C historical information will only be accepted via the FOIA process. NAVCEN will process these requests in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552 and reference (b).
- (b) <u>Process</u>. NAVCEN will conduct an initial review of all requests for historical NAIS information and develop a recommendation, in consultation with the NAIS System Owner, Commandant (CG-761) when necessary, and forward to the NAVCEN approving authority for action. Policy issues may be forwarded to the designated NAIS Program Sponsor and/or the NAIS System Owner, Commandant (CG-761) for clarification before final determination, if required.
- (c) <u>Approval/Disapproval</u>. Governmental requests for Level C historical information will normally be granted. Public and non-governmental Level B Entity requests for Level C information may normally be granted with filtering, unless a specific FOIA exemption applies. If the request is approved, the historical information will be gathered and provided by NAVCEN. Governmental entity, non-governmental entity, and other public requests for historical information that exceed the scope of NAVCEN's ability to provide will be forwarded to USCG Operations Service Center for completion in their role as the NAIS data center operator, as resourced by the NAIS System Owner, Commandant (CG-761). ISAs are not required for historical information requests due to the data being provided separately through electronic media (e.g. email, DVD, hard drive, file server, etc.), not via an open internet connection. If the historical information request is disapproved, NAVCEN Electronic Tracking Branch will prepare a disapproval letter (pursuant to the FOIA process if applicable) for the designated NAVCEN approving authority signature and delivery to requestor.
- (d) <u>Considerations and/or Temporal and Geographic Restrictions/Limitations of Release for Level C Historical Information</u>. The NAVCEN approval authority may take the following into consideration when responding to a request for Level C historical information:
 - 1. The category of the requestor (i.e. Level A Entity, Level B Entity, or the public);
 - 2. Whether the scope of the request (i.e. temporal and geographic) is consistent with the stated intended use;
 - 3. Resource availability. Derived information may be approvable for public release (i.e. when dealing with a large geographic/temporal request) as resources permit. Alternative options may be offered for large temporal or geographic data requests received from government agencies (i.e. foreign governments and U.S. Federal, State, local and tribal government agencies); and
 - 4. FOIA exemptions and considerations. BFT/STEDS information will normally be filtered from all non-governmental Level B Entity and public requests for Level C

historical information. Consideration should be given to whether the disclosure will risk the circumvention of statute and regulation associated with statutorily authorized law enforcement missions.

<u>NOTE</u>. The Attorney General has directed agencies to make partial disclosures whenever full release is not possible. Questions regarding the limitations or appropriate scope of release of information should be directed to the designated NAIS Program Sponsor who will work with the Office of General Law, Commandant (CG-0944).

- 5. Other factors as applicable.
- d. <u>Handling Requirements for Information Collected by NAIS for Level A and Level B (real-time)</u>. In an effort to continue to enhance navigation safety and security, and to protect commercial and proprietary interests, this information may not be used for purposes other than those intended for the disclosure. Foreign governments, Federal, State, local and tribal government agencies, and non-governmental entities shall not retransmit or redistribute NAIS information (real-time or stored) in any form other than those intended for the disclosure as approved, shall not charge a fee for its usage, and will be required to execute documentation imposing restrictions on the use of information collected by NAIS. Any provision of information collected by NAIS and provided to foreign governments will be coordinated with and through Commandant (CG-22), who will coordinate with the Department of State, as needed. If unapproved retransmitting or redistributing of NAIS information is identified, thereby breaching the requestor's ISA responsibilities, NAVCEN has the authority to suspend the requestor's feed until compliance with the ISA is rectified.
- e. <u>Coast Guard Units</u>. USCG units requesting an NAIS data feed or historical information beyond that which is provided via existing enterprise systems (e.g. WebCOP, Enterprise GIS, Global Command and Control System, etc.) shall submit the request to NAVCEN via the website. The request shall state the reasons why USCG enterprise systems do not meet their needs. Once validated, the request will serve as justification to develop new or modify existing system requirements and promote capability enhancements that benefit multiple users. System requirement modifications will be dependent upon the availability of appropriate resources. The System of Records Notices for these USCG affected systems should be updated by Commandant (CG-633) as appropriate, and coordinated with Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Information Technology Directorate, Commandant (CG-6), the Office of General Law Commandant (CG-0944), and the DHS Privacy Office.
- f. <u>Critical Clients</u>. Requestors seeking data for operational use may be designated as critical clients (e.g. operations of MISLE, Common Operational Picture, Maritime Awareness Global Network, Maritime Safety and Security Information System). In addition to receiving NAIS data, critical clients are notified when their NAIS connection is not available due to casualty or scheduled maintenance. Critical clients will be designated by the NAIS System Owner, Commandant (CG-761).
- g. <u>Feed Control Connections</u>. Requesting agencies should be encouraged to internally redistribute NAIS data rather than seek multiple feeds from USCG. If the requestor's architecture permits,

receiving agencies can internally redistribute the NAIS data as long as use of the data remains consistent with the intended use noted in the request. The intent to minimize external connections must be balanced with the responsibility to provide timely data in support of maritime safety, maritime security, and interagency operation enhancement. In addition, data feed connections must be regularly reviewed to ensure that ISAs are renewed prior to their expiration. Commandant (CG-9332) will review ISAs quarterly and provide NAVCEN with a current list of approved ISAs and their expiration date.

- h. <u>90-Day Waiver</u>. If the NAIS System Owner, Commandant (CG-761) determines, in consultation with the local USCG unit, that it is in the best interest of the U.S. government, they may authorize a temporary 90 day waiver to the information sharing guidelines contained in this instruction in order to allow immediate NAIS information access if needed, while the USCG confirms the information provided and completes administrative requirements.
- 6. <u>RECORDS MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS</u>. This Instruction has been thoroughly reviewed during the directives clearance process, and it has been determined there are no further records scheduling requirements, in accordance with Federal Records Act, 44 U.S.C. 3101 et seq., NARA requirements, and Information and Life Cycle Management Manual, COMDTINST M5212.12 (series). This policy does not contain any significant or substantial change to existing records management requirements.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS.

- a. The development of this directive and the general policies contained within it have been thoroughly reviewed by the originating office and are categorically excluded under current USCG categorical exclusion (CE # 1) from further environmental analysis, in accordance with Section 2.B.2. and Figure 2-1 of the National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts, COMDTINST M16475.1 (series).
- b. This directive will not have any of the following: significant cumulative impacts on the human environment; substantial controversy or substantial change to existing environmental conditions; or inconsistencies with any Federal, State, or local laws or administrative determinations relating to the environment. All future specific actions resulting from the general policies in this Manual must be individually evaluated for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Policy NEPA regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, DHS and Coast Guard NEPA policy, and compliance with all other environmental mandates.

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8. FORMS/REPORTS. None.

RADM THOMAS F. ATKIN /s/ Assistant Commandant for Intelligence & Criminal Investigations

Encl: (1) International Telecommunications Union Recommendation ITU-R M.1371-3, table 43

International Telecommunications Union Recommendation ITU-R M.1371-3

AIS Messages

1 Message types

This annex describes all n following columns:	nessages on the TDMA data link. The messages in Table 43 uses the
Message ID:	message identifier as defined in § 3.3.7.1, Annex 2.
Name:	name of the message. Can also be found in § 3.
Description:	Brief description of the message. See § 3 for detailed description of each message.
Priority:	priority as defined in § 4.2.3, Annex 2.
Access scheme:	this column indicates how a station may select slots for transmission of this message. The access scheme used for the selection of slots does not determine the message type nor the communication state of the message transmissions in those slots.
Communication state:	specifies which communication state is used in the message. If a message does not contain a communication state, it is stated as not applicable, N/A. Communication state, where applicable, indicates an expected future use of that slot. Where no communication state is indicated the slot is immediately available for future use.
M/B:	M: transmitted by mobile stationB: transmitted by Base station.

2 Message summary

The defined messages are summarized in Table 43.

TABLE	43
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Message ID	Name	Description	Priority	Access scheme	Communi- cation state	M/B
1	Position report	Scheduled position report; (Class A shipborne mobile equipment)	1	SOTDMA, RATDMA, ITDMA ⁽¹⁾	SOTDMA	М
2	Position report	Assigned scheduled position report; (Class A shipborne mobile equipment)	1	SOTDMA ⁽⁹⁾	SOTDMA	М
3	Position report	Special position report, response to interrogation; (Class A shipborne mobile equipment)	1	RATDMA ⁽¹⁾	ITDMA	M
4	Base station report	Position, UTC, date and current slot number of Base station	1	FATDMA ⁽³⁾ (7), RATDMA ⁽²⁾	SOTDMA	В
5	Static and voyage related data	Scheduled static and voyage related vessel data meport; (Class A shipborne mobile equipment)	4(5)	RATDMA, ITDMA ⁽²⁾	N/A	M
6	Binary addressed message	Binary data for addressed communication	4	RATDMA ⁽¹⁰⁾ , FATDMA, ITDMA ⁽²⁾	N/A	M/B
7	Binary acknowledgement	Acknowledgement of received addressed binary data	I	RATDMA, FATDMA, ITDMA ⁽²⁾	N/A	M/B
8	Binary broadcast message	Binary data for broadcast communication	4	RATDMA ⁽¹⁰⁾ , FATDMA, ITDMA ⁽²⁾	N/A	M/B
9	Standard SAR aircraft position report	Position report for airborne stations involved in SAR operations, only	1	SOTDMA, RATDMA, ITDMA ⁽¹⁾	SOTDMA ITDMA	М
10	UTC/date inquiry	Request UTC and date	3	RATDMA, FATDMA, ITDMA ⁽²⁾	N/A	M/B

Enclosure (1) to COMDTINST 5230.80

Message ID	Name	Description	Priority	Access scheme	Communi- cation state	M/B
tI	UTC/date response	Current UTC and date if available	3	RATDMA, ITDMA ⁽²⁾	SOTDMA	М
12	Addressed safety related message	Safety related data for addressed communication	2	RATDMA ⁽¹⁰⁾ , FATDMA, ITDMA ⁽²⁾	N/A	M/B
13	Safety related acknowledgement	Acknowledgement of received addressed safety related message	1	RATDMA, FATDMA, ITDMA ⁽²⁾	N/A	M/B
14	Safety related broadcast message	Safety related data for broadcast communication	2	RATDMA ⁽¹⁰⁾ , FATDMA, ITDMA ⁽²⁾	N/A	M/B
15	Interrogation	Request for a specific message type (can result in multiple responses from one or several stations) ⁽⁴⁾	3	RATDMA, FATDMA, ITDMA ⁽²⁾	N/A	M/B
16	Assignment mode command	Assignment of a specific report behaviour by competent authority using a Base station	1	RATDMA, FATDMA ⁽²⁾	N/A	В
17	DGNSS broadcast binary message	DGNSS corrections provided by a Base station	2	FATDMA ⁽³⁾ , RATDMA ⁽²⁾	N/A	B
18	Standard Class B equipment position report	Standard position report for Class B shipborne mobile equipment to be used instead of Messages 1, 2, 3 ⁽⁸⁾		SOTDMA, ITDMA ^{(I),} CSTDMA	SOTDMA, ITDMA	M
19	Extended Class B equipment position report	Extended position report for class B shipborne mobile equipment; contains additional static information ⁽⁸⁾	1	ITDMA	N/A	M
20	Data link management message	Reserve slots for Base station(s)	1	FATDMA ⁽³⁾ , RATDMA	N/A	B
21	Aids-to-navigation report	Position and status report for aids-to- navigation	1	RATDMA FATDMA ⁽³⁾ , RATDMA ⁽²⁾	N/A	M/B
22	Channel management ⁽⁶⁾	Management of channels and transceiver modes by a Base station	1	FATDMA ⁽³⁾ , RATDMA ⁽²⁾	N/A	В
23	Group assignment command	Assignment of a specific report behaviour by competent authority using a Base station to a specific group of mobiles	1	FATDMA, RATDMA	N/A	В
24	Static data report	Additional data assigned to an MMSI Part A: Name Part B: Static Data	4	RATDMA, ITDMA, CSTDMA, FATDMA	N/A	M/B
25	Single slot binary message	short unscheduled binary data transmission (Broadcast or addressed)	4	RATDMA, ITDMA, CSTDMA, FATDMA	N/A	M/B
26	Multiple slot binary message with Communications State	scheduled binary data transmission (Broadcast or addressed)	4	SOTDMA, RATDMA, ITDMA	SOTDMA, ITDMA	M/B

(1) ITDMA is used during the first frame phase (see § 3.3.5.3, Annex 2) and during a change of Rr. SOTDMA is used during the continuous operation phase (see § 3.3.5.4, Annex 2). RATDMA can be used at any time to transmit additional position reports.

(2) This message type should be broadcast within 4 s. The RATDMA access scheme is the default method (see § 3.3.4.2.1, Annex 2) for allocating the slot(s) for this message type. Alternatively, an existing SOTDMA allocated slot should, when possible, use the ITDMA access scheme for allocating the slot(s) for this message (this statement applies to mobiles only). A Base station may use an existing FATDMA allocated slot for allocating the slot(s) for transmission of this message type.

(3) A Base station is always operating in assigned mode using a fixed transmission schedule (FATDMA) for its periodic transmissions. The data link management message should be used to announce the Base station's fixed allocation schedule (see Message 20). If necessary RATDMA may be used to transmit non-periodic broadcasts.

⁽⁴⁾ For interrogation of UTC and date, message identifier 10 should be used.

(5) Priority 3, if in response to interrogation.

(6) In order to satisfy the requirements for dual channel operation (see § 0, Annex 2 and § 4.1, Annex 2), the following should apply, unless otherwise specified by Message 22:

- For periodic repeated messages, including the initial link access, the transmissions should alternate between AIS 1 and AIS 2.

- Transmissions following slot allocation announcements, responses to interrogations, responses to requests, and acknowledgements should be transmitted on the same channel as the initial message.

- For addressed messages, transmissions should utilize the channel in which a message from the addressed station was last received.

- For non-periodic messages other than those referenced above, the transmissions of each message, regardless of message type, should alternate between AIS 1 and AIS 2.

(7) Recommendations for Base stations (dual channel operations): Base stations should alternate their transmissions between AIS 1 and AIS 2 for the following reasons:

to increase link capacity;

- to balance channel loading between AIS 1 and AIS 2; and