SPECIAL NOTICE

AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS - Revised AIS Encoding Guidance for U.S. waters. U.S. regulations require that all Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) be maintained in effective operating condition, which includes the accurate input and upkeep of all AIS data fields (33 CFR 164.46(d)). The U.S. Coast Guard has developed a Guide, to assist AIS users in performing this task, which provides guidance and examples on how to properly encode each AIS data parameter. This Guide is attached and is also available on the U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center website at http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/AIS; and, has been revised to:

- address vessels that lack an IMO number or a vessel name;
- address vessel names that exceed the 20-character limit of the AIS name parameter;
- address when and how to convey the overall dimensions of a towing vessel and its tow;
- reduce or streamline how destination and estimated time of arrival (ETA) is reported;
- introduce two newly adopted navigation status for vessel that engage in towing (i.e. Navigation Status '11' to indicate vessels towing astern, and '12' to indicate those pushing ahead or alongside)–use of these statuses may require a software update;
- amend previously U.S. assigned AIS 'type of ship' codes for the following vessels:
    - *vessels that engaged in towing by pushing ahead or alongside*, i.e. push-boat who's AIS dimension values solely represent the length and breadth of the vessel, from type code '21' to '56' (spare–for assignment to local vessels); or, who's dimension values represent the overall rectangular perimeter of the vessel and its tow, from type code '22' to '57' (spare–for assignment to local vessels);
    - *push-boats or workboats* that do not engage in long haul towing, from type code '23' to '53' (tugs);
    - *mobile offshore drilling units (MODUs), lift boats, floating production systems (FPS), floating production storage and offloading (FPSO) vessels,* from type code '24' to '33' (engaged in dredging or underwater operations);
    - *offshore supply vessels (OSV),* from type code '25' to '53' (port tender);
    - *fish processing vessels*, from type code '26' to '30' (fishing);
    - *school or training ship*s, from type code '27' to '99' (other type of ships, no additional information);
    - *public or governmental vessels*, from type code '28' to '51' (search and rescue) for first-responders or '55' (law enforcement) for vessel that engage in law enforcement; and,
    - *autonomous or remotely-operated craft*, from type code '29' to '00' (not available).

AIS users are reminded to update their Navigational Status after status changes, particularly after anchoring or mooring. Doing so changes the AIS reporting rate from 10 seconds to every 3 minutes; this reduces network congestion and thus provides broader reception for all AIS users in the area.

Continual failure to maintain your AIS in accurate operating condition could subject an AIS user and owner to civil penalties. For further information on AIS or this Guide visit http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/AIS or contact cgnav@uscg.mil.