



To: All SOLAS Contracting Governments  
All IMSO Member States  
All IMSO Observers

From: IMSO Director General 

**IMSO/2020/LRIT/003**

30 April 2020

## **Outcome of the third modification testing**

This Circular provides information on a recent development regarding the Long-Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT) system, in particular, the outcome of the third modification testing phase of the LRIT system with the basics of the newly added feature.

Parties implementing LRIT may have already been aware that the third modification testing phase of the LRIT system had been scheduled to be conducted between January and March 2020 (NCSR 6/WP.4, annex 1 refers) to enable implementation of a new LRIT feature and the new XML schemas.

IMSO, as the LRIT Coordinator, closely followed every step of the testing process, which required careful planning and precise execution to ensure implementation of the changes by the LRIT Data Distribution Plan (DDP) server, the International LRIT Data Exchange (IDE) and all LRIT Data Centres simultaneously on 31 March 2020.

This is also for the information of all concerned that all LRIT components, including all 64 LRIT Data Centres which participated in the testing, satisfactorily completed the required tests before 31 March 2020 and completed another important milestone in the evolution of the LRIT system.

It may be recalled, also that the second modification testing phase of the LRIT system (2017) had extended the use of the SURPIC Request message (Message Type 6) for coastal tracking, in addition to search and rescue at sea. With the latest change introduced, the scope of the Coastal SURPIC Request message has been extended further to allow States to request the provision of *archived* LRIT information of ships within a specific geographical area.

This new feature is expected to be a useful tool for States particularly when investigating of sea incidents such as collision, pollution, migration, etc. I refer you to the LRIT Technical documentation Part I (MSC.1/Circ.1259/Rev.8) for further details on the use of the SURPIC Request message for both coastal tracking and search and rescue purposes.

Any feedback or comment would be welcome.

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