

4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT  
LONDON SE1 7SR  
Tel: +44 (0)20 3970 1060 [www.imso.org](http://www.imso.org)

Circular Letter No. 33  
18 January 2024

To: All IMSO Member States  
IMSO Observers  
LRIT Contact Points  
International LRIT Data Exchange

Subject: **LRIT training for Search and Rescue Operators**

1 The Director General has the honour to invite participation in an online training on the use of the Long Range Identification and Tracking of ships (LRIT) system for search and rescue (SAR), supported by the EU LRIT Cooperative Data Centre and the Brazil Regional LRIT Data Centre, on Tuesday, 27 February 2024 from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm (UTC+1).

2 The programme for the training can be found in the annex to this circular letter. The training will be an excellent opportunity to understand the use of the LRIT system for search and rescue and for SAR operators to enhance their use of the LRIT system.

3 This training will be conducted in English without interpretation and is intended primarily for SAR operators. However, other participants may register. Further information on the arrangements for the meeting, key aspects of the training and attendance requirements are provided in the annex.

4 Those wishing to participate in this training are invited to register using the following link: <https://imso.org/lrit-training>. The deadline for registration is Friday, 23 February 2024.

5 The recording of the training will be made available on the IMSO website using the following link: <https://imso.org/lrit-training>.

6 Any enquiries relating to the training should be directed to the IMSO Directorate via email [lrit@imso.org](mailto:lrit@imso.org).

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## ANNEX

### LRIT TRAINING FOR SAR OPERATORS

27 FEBRUARY 2024

#### General information

1 The International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) is the intergovernmental organization whose primary purpose is to oversee the performance of all components and the availability of mobile satellite communications systems recognized by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for their use in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS). IMSO also serves as the Co-ordinator for the Long Range Identification and Tracking of ships (LRIT) system, appointed by IMO, and conducts the continuous audit and review of the performance of the international LRIT system.

2 The LRIT system was established by IMO through the adoption of resolution MSC.202(81) on 19 May 2006 to enhance security at sea and protect the marine environment, along with the aim to support search and rescue of persons in distress at sea. The LRIT system has been operational since 1 July 2009. Currently, it consists of 71 LRIT Data Centres (DC), which facilitate the exchange of LRIT information received from approximately 40,000 ships across 135 flag State Administrations as well as security forces and search and rescue (SAR) entities from across the world.

3 According to SOLAS regulation V/19-1.12, the SAR services of SOLAS Contracting Governments are entitled to request and receive, free of any charge, LRIT information (latitude, longitude, ship identity and date/time of the position) in relation to the search and rescue of persons in distress at sea.

4 The LRIT system allows SAR operators to quickly receive a surface picture from a region. This surface picture includes all SOLAS ships in the region and their last positions, updated every six hours. Furthermore, SAR operators can query individual ships about their actual position or their past track.

5 As part of its LRIT Co-ordinator function, IMSO has identified that LRIT is not used to its full potential by Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres (MRCCs) for SAR operations, possibly due to a lack of knowledge among MRCC operators about how the LRIT system can be used for conducting SAR operations. This finding was presented to the 30th session of the ICAO/IMO joint working group on harmonization of aeronautical and maritime search and rescue (ICAO/IMO JWG-SAR) and to the 49th session of the IMSO Advisory Committee.

#### General arrangements

6 The training supported by the EU LRIT Cooperative Data Centre and the Brazil Regional Data Centre will be delivered in a virtual environment to allow for a broader worldwide attendance and the use of live systems to illustrate the potential SAR scenarios.

7 The IMSO Directorate will deliver information about the LRIT system and its features developed to support SAR, and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), operator of the EU LRIT Cooperative Data Centre, will present some scenarios to demonstrate the use of LRIT for SAR. These scenarios will be shown in a live system with simulated ships providing real-time responses and supported by the Brazilian LRIT Regional Data Centre.

### **Training highlights**

8 The LRIT training for SAR operators will be delivered on 27 February 2024 from 11 am to 2 pm (London time). The training should consider the following items:

- LRIT system – general information
- High-level architecture and regulatory framework
- Implementation status
- Features for SAR
  - SURPIC
  - Individual requests (most recent, historical information and actual position)
- IMO guidelines for MRCC while using LRIT
  - Operational
  - Audit information
- Step-by-step conceptual scenario
- Simulated scenarios to illustrate the use of LRIT in a live system.

9 After each topic, there will be time for Questions and Answers.

### **Attendance requirements**

10 The training is intended primarily for SAR operators. However, other participants may register.

11 All attendees should have professional fluency in English. They should access the training individually using headsets and webcams, with stable access to the Internet.

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