

**IMCO FILE COPY**

**INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION**

T2/D/1.047

SN/Circ.11  
30 April 1964

**MERCHANT SHIPS POSITION-REPORTING SYSTEM**

1. Attached is a note by the Government of New Zealand concerning a position-reporting system for ships in the area south of the Equator and between longitudes 140° West and 160° East.
2. Following the decision taken by the Maritime Safety Committee at its sixth session, this note is circulated to all Member Governments for their information.

Encl. 1

Chancery House,  
Chancery Lane,  
London, W.C.2.

I. M. C. O.

Reference SN/Circ. 5

4 March 1963

MERCHANT SHIP REPORTING SYSTEMS

In above Circular, Member Governments are requested:

- (a) to submit to I.M.C.O. for circulation to Member Governments a note containing the operational details of such systems operated by them;
  
- (b) to encourage the participation of their ships in such systems wherever they exist.

Marine Department, New Zealand, in respect to above have pleasure in submitting the following note on the operational details of the system operating in New Zealand.

NEW ZEALAND SYSTEM

1. REPORTING

- (a) All ships in the area south of the Equator and between longitudes 140° West and 160° East are requested to report to one of the three coastal radio stations in New Zealand at 0000 hours G.M.T. each day.
- (b) No charge is made for their reports.
- (c) The report is made in a standardized form.
- (d) Reports may be transmitted on normal, medium or high frequency radiotelegraph or radio-telephone channels.
- (e) The above information is promulgated in New Zealand Notice to Mariners, Number 126, 1963, which member Governments may reprint if they deem it necessary.

2. PLOTTING

- (a) Ship reports are plotted on a map of the Pacific Ocean 6 feet square (1,830 millimetres square) which is mounted on a wall at Wellington Radio Station, and maintained by the supervisor of the Station.
  
- (b) The wall map consists of a square sheet of mild steel one eighth of an inch thick (3.2 millimetres) upon which is attached the map of the Pacific Ocean. Ship models 2 inches long (51 millimetres) and 1 inch deep (25.4 millimetres) of magnetised steel and of ship shape are used to represent ships. The ship models are placed on the wall map in their reported position and are magnetically fixed to the map.
  
- (c) The ship models are identified either by means of their radio call signs in the case of all passenger ships and regular cargo trading ships, or by means of an index number for irregular traders. The radio call signs or index numbers are printed on the upper side of the models. Ship models not in present use are left on the map on the margin, ready for immediate use.

(d) Each ship model is moved to its new position daily, on receipt of a position report. If no report is received the model is moved to its estimated position. Ships in ports of the Pacific Islands remain on the map until information of their departure is received.

(e) The wall map is marked with all regular Great Circle tracks and Mercator tracks for the whole of the Pacific Ocean. This greatly facilitates maintaining the plot up to date when only a departure signal is made by ships, and estimated positions are required.

See Appendix "B" Photograph of wall map.

### 3. COASTAL PLOT

In addition to the oceanic plot, a coastal plot is maintained at Wellington Radio Station. This consists of a wall map of New Zealand, size 80 inches by 54 inches (1,933 millimetres by 1372 millimetres) on which are pinned cardboard ship models representing coastal movements of ships and ships in port.

### 4. REMARKS

(a) The longitudinal limits of 140° West to 160° East is the area for which New Zealand is responsible under the International Search and Rescue Organisation.

(b) The knowledge of the positions of ships is of vital importance in search and rescue operations. This is the primary purpose of maintaining a plot of ship movements. However, the oceanic plot

has also proved valuable in medical cases where it has been necessary to know the position of ships carrying a medical officer when requiring urgent medical or surgical treatment of crew members in ships not carrying a medical officer.

*E. G. O'Halloran*

Secretary for Marine  
3/10/63

APPENDIX "A"

NEW ZEALAND NOTICE TO MARINERS

NUMBER 126 OF 1963

The authorities responsible for Search and Rescue Organisation in New Zealand and Australia state that a prior knowledge of the position of merchant ships is of considerable value in coordinating rescue intelligence.

To assist in developing the Search and Rescue service to the highest possible stage of efficiency, masters of all vessels traversing the Tasman Sea and the South Pacific area south of the Equator between longitudes 140° W and 160° E are requested to cooperate by transmitting a daily position report. Reports are not needed from vessels sailing between coastal ports of New Zealand, but vessels sailing into the Tasman Sea from the East Coast ports of the North Island via North Cape are requested to make reports from the first 0000 G.M.T. after departure. Ships from East Coast ports of either the South or North Island entering the Tasman Sea via Cook Strait or Foveaux Strait need not commence dispatching their positions until actually in the Tasman Sea.

So that standardisation may be achieved the message should be a normal radiogram containing the ship's name and the usual components of a message preamble. Search and Rescue position reports should show latitude, longitude, course and speed. Position reports should be addressed to either Auckland, Wellington, or Awarua Radio, and should be



transmitted to the station concerned on normal, medium, or high-frequency radiotelegraph or radiotelephone channels. Only one station need be contacted. The position reports are to be related to 0000 G.M.T. and dispatched as soon as is convenient after the customary local noon weather observations.

A typical example of a message addressed to Awarua Radio from s.s. "Nonesuch" would be -

Ship's name "Nonesuch" in preamble.

(Address) ZLB

(Text) 4444S 16635E 22014

Being 0000Z latitude 44° 44'S, longitude 166° 35'E,

Course 220° True at 14 knots.

There is no charge for these messages.

New Zealand owned ships are also invited to comply with the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation recommendations which request all ships to participate in other Member Government Merchant Shipping reporting systems wherever they exist.

Marine Department, Wellington. New Zealand Post Office

(M 13/2555/7)

APPENDIX "B"

