

BINARY BROADCAST MESSAGE (MESSAGE 8)

This message will be variable in length, based on the amount of binary data. The length should vary between 1 and 5 slots. Since the data content of this binary message is defined by the application, Message 8 is an [Application Specific Message \(click on this link for a registry of recognized Application Specific Messages\)](#).

Parameter	Number of bits	Description								
Message ID	6	Identifier for Message 8; always 8								
Repeat indicator	2	Used by the repeater to indicate how many times a message has been repeated. 0-3; default = 0; 3 = do not repeat any more								
Source ID	30	MMSI number of source station								
Spare	2	Not used. Should be set to zero. Reserved for future use								
Binary data	Maximum 968	Application identifier	16 bits	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Bit</th> <th>Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>15-6</td> <td>Designated area code (DAC). This code is based on the maritime identification digits (MID). Exceptions are 0 (test) and 1 (international). Although the length is 10 bits, the DAC codes equal to or above 1 000 are reserved for future use</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5-0</td> <td>Function identifier (FI). The meaning should be determined by the authority which is responsible for the area given in the designated area code</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Bit	Description	15-6	Designated area code (DAC). This code is based on the maritime identification digits (MID). Exceptions are 0 (test) and 1 (international). Although the length is 10 bits, the DAC codes equal to or above 1 000 are reserved for future use	5-0	Function identifier (FI). The meaning should be determined by the authority which is responsible for the area given in the designated area code
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Application data	Maximum 952 bits	Application specific data								
Maximum number of bits	Maximum 1 008	Occupies up to 3 slots, or up to 5 slots when able to use FATDMA reservations. For Class B "SO" mobile AIS stations the length of the message should not exceed 3 slots For Class B "CS" mobile AIS stations should not transmit								

The table below gives the number of binary data bytes (including application ID and application data), so that the whole message fits into a given number of slots. It is recommended that any application minimizes the use of slots by limiting the number of binary data bytes to the numbers given, if possible:

Number of slots	Maximum binary data bytes
1	12
2	40
3	68
4	96
5	121

(Source: [Rec. ITU-R M.1371-5](#))