

SHIPBORNE AIS COMPARISON	CLASS A	CLASS B-SO	CLASS B-CS
PRIMARY ACCESS SCHEME	Self-Organizing Time-Division Multiple Access (SO-TDMA per ITU-R M.1371)		Carrier-Sense TDMA (CS-TDMA)
FREQUENCY RANGE	156.025–162.025 MHz (25 kHz bandwidth)		161.500–162.025 MHz (25 kHz bandwidth)
DIGITAL SELECTIVE CALLING	Dedicated receiver	Time-shared with a TDMA receiver	
TRANSMIT POWER	12.5 Watts (1 W low-power)	5 Watts (2 W low-power)	2 Watts only
POSITIONING SOURCE	Interfaced to vessel's primary Electronic Positioning Fixing System; Internal Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) as a fall-back	Internal GNSS	
POSITION REPORTING	Every 2 s if >23 kts; 3.33 s if >5° course change; 6 s if >14-23 kts; 10 s if 2-14 kts; 3 min. if at anchored, moored, or =< 3 kts; via Message 1	Every 5 s if >23 kts; 15; if 14-23 kts; 30 s if >23 kts; 3 min. if at anchored, moored, or =< 2 kts; via Message 18	Via message 18; every 30 s (±4 s), subject to slot availability; 3 min. if at anchored, moored, or =< 2 kts; via Message 18
	Message 1 reports: MMSI, Time-stamp, Position, Position Accuracy flag, RAIM flag, COG, SOG, HDG, ROT, Navigation Status, Communication State; Message 18 omits ROT and Navigation Status, but, adds various Class B flags for: Type (SO/CS), Operating Mode, and, availability of a Display, DSC Receiver, Full/Limited Bandwidth, and Channel Management		
STATIC & VOYAGE DATA REPORTING	Every 6 min. via Message 5	Every 6 min. via Message 24A&B	
	Message 5 reports: MMSI, IMO#, Call-sign, Name, Ship Type, Dimensions, Static Draft, Destination, ETA, EPFS type, Data Terminal availability, AIS version; Message 25A&B omits IMO#, Static Draft, Destination, ETA, Data Terminal availability, AIS version but, adds Vendor ID.		
APPLICATION & SAFETY TEXT MESSAGING	Receive & transmit	Receive optional, cannot transmit	
DISPLAY & INTERFACING	Minimal Keyboard Display (MKD) required Two input-output ports; multiple interfaces	Display optional; One input-output interface	Both optional
TEST STANDARD	IEC 61993-2	IEC 62287-2	IEC 62287-1
USCG APPROVAL NR.	USCG 165.155/x/x	USCG 165.157/x/x	USCG 165.156/x/x
ESTIMATED COST	\$2,600-4,000	\$2,000	\$700-1,600