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Spectrum Management and Telecommunications

Client Procedures Circular

Maritime Mobile Service Identities (MMSIs)



Preface

Client Procedures Circulars describe the various procedures or processes to be followed by the public when dealing with Industry Canada. The information contained in these circulars is subject to change without notice. It is therefore suggested that interested persons consult the nearest district office of Industry Canada for additional details. While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure accuracy, no warranty is expressed or implied. As well, these circulars have no status in law.

Comments and suggestions may be directed to the following address: (Note: <u>Do not</u> send MMSI applications to this mailing or e-mail address)

Industry Canada Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulatory Branch 300 Slater Street Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C8

Attention: DOSP

E-mail: spectrum_pubs@ic.gc.ca

All Spectrum Management and Telecommunications publications are available on the following website: http://strategis.gc.ca/spectrum.

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1. Principle

Because each ship and coast station needs a unique identifier for safety and telecommunications purposes, the Radiocommunication Sector of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU-R) has recommended the adoption of an international system of automatic station identification. Consequently, the ITU has adopted in its *Radio Regulations* the assignment and use of Maritime Mobile Service Identities (MMSIs).

2. Mandate

Section 5(c) of the *Department of Industry Act* states that the Minister shall exercise powers and perform duties and functions in a manner that will increase the international competitiveness of Canadian industry, goods and services and assist in the adjustment to changing domestic and international conditions.

3. Policy

3.1 General

With new technologies becoming widely available, radiocommunication systems must be improved to meet the needs of licensees and vessel owners (the terms *licensee*, *vessel owner* and *applicant* are used interchangeably throughout this document). In the maritime mobile service, a vast improvement in the efficiency of radiocommunications can be realized through the use of Digital Selective Calling (DSC), which forms an integral part of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS). The use of DSC speeds up ship-to-shore and intership communications, as well as communications between ships and the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN).

In order to utilize the DSC system, a station must be able to uniquely identify itself and also identify the intended addressee of the call. This identification is accomplished through the use of Maritime Mobile Service Identities (MMSIs). In support of this, Industry Canada (IC) will, at the applicant's request, assign an MMSI to Canadian ships and coast stations.

The use of the DSC system and the associated MMSIs allow worldwide access, through the PSTN and INMARSAT, to ship stations equipped with automated radiocommunication systems. Through the use of the DSC system and MMSIs, ships can place calls automatically and selectively to other ships and coast stations.

Various types of DSC calls are available, generally either distress and safety related calls, or "routine" calls. A routine call may include a public correspondence call or calls related to the operation of the ship, (e.g. to port authorities). In the case of VHF, automatic connection to the PSTN can also be established through suitably equipped coast stations.

It should be noted that IC has in the past issued five digit SELCAL numbers to vessels and four digit identification numbers to coast stations which uniquely identified a specific Narrow-band Direct Printing apparatus (NBDP) operated from a coast station or installed on board a ship. These identities do not form a part of the DSC system or GMDSS and should not be confused with the MMSI which is a nine digit number. With the new technologies, MMSIs have replaced these four and five digit identifiers and IC will not issue these numbers unless substantial justification is provided.

3.2 Eligibility

An MMSI may be issued to coast stations participating in automated radiocommunication systems and to ships which are fitted or will soon be fitted with a ship earth station or an automatic radiocommunication system, including ships fitted with DSC radios. It is not necessary that a ship have a radio licence in order to be issued an MMSI.

4. Procedure

4.1 General

Industry Canada, as the radio licensing body in Canada, is responsible for the issuance and management of MMSIs. To obtain an MMSI, applicants must contact their nearest IC office (see Radiocommunication Information Circular 66, *Addresses and Telephone Numbers of Regional and District Offices* (RIC-66)) and provide the necessary vessel or coast station details. Vessel owners must also provide specific information regarding installed radio equipment and emergency contacts. If the vessel is not currently licensed and not exempt from licensing by the *Radiocommunication Regulations* - section 15.2, a radio licence will also be required. It should be noted that vessels not requiring a radio licence may still be issued an MMSI.

In an effort to provide more efficient services in areas of higher demand (such as on Canada's east and west coasts), many of IC's offices are able to provide MMSIs immediately over the counter, provided vessel and associated information is received. In all cases, regardless of the IC office with which the applicant is dealing, every effort will be made to ensure MMSIs are issued as quickly as possible.

All information collected is entered into IC's National Maritime Information Database (NMID) and is forwarded to the ITU for inclusion in the Maritime-mobile Access and Retrieval System (MARS) which currently serves as a temporary repository of international maritime information at the ITU. Information contained in the NMID can be accessed via the Internet through Industry Canada's Spectrum Direct website. This information is used by the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) and related search and rescue agencies in the case of emergency. While the CCG and related search and rescue agencies have access to the full set of information collected, the general public does not have access to emergency contact information in either the NMID or MARS.

4.2 Obtaining an MMSI

In order to obtain an MMSI, Industry Canada requires that the applicant supply specific information depending on the kind of MMSI requested. There are three kinds of Maritime Mobile Service Identities:

ship station MMSIs;
 coast station MMSIs.
 ship station group MMSIs; and
 see Annex C
 see Annex C
 see Annex D

Application forms for each kind of MMSI are also available from Industry Canada district offices and from Industry Canada's <u>Spectrum Direct website</u> at: http://sd.ic.gc.ca.

4.3 Ship Station MMSI

Ship Station is by far the most common MMSI category. These comprise well over 95% of all MMSIs assigned by Industry Canada. The basic assignment principle for Ship Station MMSIs is that the same identity applies to all radio equipment on board the vessel. This consistency has to be maintained to the extent possible.

In order to obtain a ship station MMSI, the application form in Annex A or B of this document must be completed and submitted to Industry Canada. In the case of a vessel which does not require a radio licence and is only fitted with a VHF/DSC radio(s), use Annex A. If the vessel requires a radio licence or is fitted with additional equipment, use Annex B.

In the case of a change in ownership of a vessel sold with the radio equipment that has an MMSI, the assigned MMSI number should not be changed. However, the new vessel owner must contact Industry Canada to provide MMSI ownership information changes. If the vessel or vessel ownership involves a change in the country with which the vessel is registered and MMSI assigned, then a new MMSI assigned by the country of registration is required and must be programmed into the radio equipment. If this is the case, submit a new MMSI request to IC.

Where there is a change in ownership of only the radio equipment that has an assigned MMSI, a new MMSI number is required for the radio. The vessel owner acquiring the radio must submit an MMSI application form to IC, who will assign a new MMSI number that is to be programmed into the radio equipment.

Where an MMSI is assigned and subsequently an INMARSAT mobile earth station is installed (of standard B, C or M) a new MMSI number is required. The vessel owner must submit an MMSI application form to Industry Canada which will assign a new MMSI number that must be re-programmed into all the radio equipment.

Annex E at the end of this document contains information concerning the various ITU codes to be used in completing the relevant Annex.

Note: Register any Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) with the <u>National Search and Rescue Secretariat</u>, online at http://beacons.nss.gc.ca or by phone 1-800-727-9414.

4.4 Ship Station Group MMSI

A Ship Station Group MMSI is typically issued to a group of vessels where it is desirable that a specific group of vessels be contacted at the same time with one call. Each ship in such a group must also have an individual MMSI. One person, acting as contact person on behalf of the group, must apply to Industry Canada for a Ship Station Group MMSI using the application form in Annex D of this document.

4.5 Coast Station MMSI

A coast station MMSI is typically issued to a coast station which is to be involved with automatic communications with vessels. Generally speaking, coast station MMSIs are only issued to CCG stations or other coast stations with large fleets of vessels such as a fishing company or tug boat operation. Any such station also requires a radio licence. In order to obtain a coast station MMSI, the appropriate coast station information must be provided to Industry Canada using the form in Annex C of this document.

4.6 Licensee and Vessel Owner Responsibility

The importance of maintaining current and valid information for assigned MMSIs contained in the National Maritime Information Database cannot be stressed enough. If the MMSI information in this database is not accurate, rescue efforts in the event of an emergency could be compromised. It is the responsibility of the licensee and vessel owner to ensure that information supplied at the time of applying for an MMSI is accurate. Further, it is the licensee's and vessel owner's responsibility to inform Industry Canada should this information change (see Section 4.3 Ship Station MMSI).

For a vessel owner, such additional or update information could include (but is not limited to) information regarding a change of ownership, a vessel name change, a change in the requirement to hold a valid radio licence (i.e. the vessel had a valid radio licence but is now exempted), a change in vessel classification or tonnage, or that some radio equipment making use of an MMSI is being installed or removed from the vessel.

Licensees and vessel owners in possession of an MMSI for use with their VHF DSC radio equipment are urged to also consult Radio Standards Specification 182, *Maritime Radio Transmitters and Receivers in the Band 156-162.5 MHz* (RSS-182). RSS-182 clearly indicates that MMSIs can only be programmed into VHF DSC radio equipment by qualified radio service/maintenance personnel.

Annex A - MMSI Application Form - Ship Station with VHF/DSC Only, Unlicensed Radio

IMPORTANT: Be sure to fill out the correct ship station MMSI form (Annex A or B). Use this application form if the vessel does not require a radio licence and if the radio equipment on board consists of a VHF/DSC radio(s) with or without GPS or LORAN. In such case, a type 0 MMSI should be issued. If the vessel requires a radio licence or if additional radio equipment is installed, use the application form in Annex B.

	Action: ○ Assign a new MMSI ○ Modify an existing MMSI ○ Cancel an existing MMSI Information (✔ denotes mandatory fields and ⋈ denotes mandatory fields if issued or installed):
•	Applicant Name: Last, First
~	Applicant Telephone Number: (include country code and area code)
V	Applicant Mailing/Postal Address: (include postal code)
	Applicant Facsimile Number: (include country code and area code)
	Applicant Electronic Mail Address:
×	MMSI: Nine digit Maritime Mobile Service Identity beginning with 316 (mandatory only if previously issued or installed)
~	Vessel Name:
	Ex Vessel Name: (in case of a modification to the vessel name)
v	Vessel Owner Information: (if different from Applicant fields)
/	Last, First or Company name:
/	Full mailing address including postal code:
•	Telephone (include country code and area code):
	Fax:
	E-mail:
~	General Classification: Make a selection from Annex E
	Individual Classification(s): Make the appropriate selection(s) from Annex E

Annex A

₿	Ship Station Group MMSI: (if the vessel belongs to a group) (mandatory only if previously issued or installed)
•	Gross Tonnage: Vessel's internal capacity in tons, 1 ton=2000 lbs. (for pleasure craft of 12 metres or less, see Annex E)
	Tons
•	Emergency Contact Person Ashore Name and Address:
•	Emergency Contact Person Ashore Telephone Number: (include country code and area code)
	Emergency Contact Person Ashore Fax Number: (include country code and area code)
	Alternate 24-hour Emergency Telephone Number: An individual who is accessible at any time (include country code and area code)
~	Capacity for Persons On Board: Maximum number of persons on board
•	Radio Installation Information: Radio equipment on board (VHF/DSC GPS LORAN)
	VHF/DSC
/	Vessel Length: Metres
	Additional Information and/or Instructions:

Annex B - MMSI Application Form - Ship Station with Radio Licence

licence o	or if additional equipment is installed on board. If the vessel does not require a radio licence and if the radio equipment of a VHF/DSC radio(s) with or without GPS or LORAN, use the application form in Annex A.	
Part A - A	Action: O Assign a new MMSI O Modify an existing MMSI Cancel an existing MMSI	
Part B - I	INMARSAT mobile terminal(s) on board (select only one):	
The v	ressel is NOT equipped with an INMARSAT mobile terminal standard B, C or M. ressel is, or soon will be, fitted with an INMARSAT mobile terminal standard C. ressel is, or soon will be, fitted with an INMARSAT mobile terminal standard B or M. Information (denotes mandatory fields and denotes mandatory fields are denoted by the standard by the stan	(Type 0 MMSI (Type 1 MMSI (Type 3 MMSI
~	Applicant Name: Last, First	
~	Applicant Telephone Number: (include country code and area code)	
•	Applicant Mailing/Postal Address: (include postal code)	
	Applicant Facsimile Number: (include country code and area code)	
	Applicant Electronic Mail Address:	
X	MMSI: Nine digit Maritime Mobile Service Identity beginning with 316 (mandatory only if previously issued or ins	talled)
•	Vessel Name:	
	Ex Vessel Name: (in case of a modification to the vessel name)	
~	Vessel Owner Information: (if different from Applicant fields)	
~	Last, First or Company name:	
~	Full mailing address including postal code:	
~	Telephone (include country code and area code):	
	Fax:	
	E-mail:	

Annex B

•	General Classification: Make a selection from Annex E					
•	Individual Classification(s): Make the appropriate selection(s) from Annex E					
X	Ship Station Group MMSI: (if the vessel belongs to a group) (mandatory only if previously issued or installed)					
~	Gross Tonnage: Vessel's internal capacity in tons, 1 ton=2000 lbs. (for pleasure craft of 12 metres or less, see Annex E)					
	Tons					
•	Emergency Contact Person Ashore Name and Address:					
•	Emergency Contact Person Ashore Telephone Number: (include country code and area code)					
	Emergency Contact Person Ashore Fax Number: (include country code and area code)					
	Alternate 24-hour Emergency Telephone Number: An individual who is accessible at any time (include country code and area code)					
v	Capacity for Persons On Board: Maximum number of persons on board					
~	Radio Installation Information: Radio equipment on board (i.e. MF/HF MF/HF/DSC VHF VHF/DSC CB CELL PCS MSAT NBDP RTTY DF FAX NAVTEX LORAN INMARSAT-A-B-C-M-Mini-M-M4 EGC GPS SART)					
•	Vessel Length: Metres					
æ	Radio Call Sign: Radio call sign of the vessel as issued by Industry Canada (mandatory only if licensed)					
	Ex Radio Call Sign: (in case of a modification to the radio call sign)					
æ	Selective Call Number(s): Five digit selective call number(s) as issued by Industry Canada between 03200-03299 prefixed with the letter S if used for Sequential Single Frequency Code (SSFC) only or letter T if used also for Narrow-Band Direct Printing (NBDP) or NBDP only (mandatory only if previously issued or installed)					

Annex B

X	Number of Life Boats: Number of life boats fitted with or without radio apparatus (mandatory if installed)
æ	Frequency(ies) for EPIRB: Operating frequency(ies) of the EPIRB equipment on board (mandatory if installed)
x	EPIRB Hex Identification Code(s): The fifteen hexadecimal character string, referred to as the beacon 15 Hex ID beginning with A78 (mandatory if installed, must be 15 characters)
×	EPIRB MMSI: 9 digit MMSI number or 316 + call sign assigned to EPIRB
	Nature(s) of Service: Make the appropriate selection(s) from Annex E
	Service(s) Available: Make the appropriate selection(s) from Annex E
	Service Hours: Make the appropriate selection(s) from Annex E
	Telegraphy Frequency Band(s): Make the appropriate selection(s) from Annex E
	Telephony Frequency Band(s): Make the appropriate selection(s) from Annex E
	Accounting Authority (AAIC): The Accounting Authority Identification Code of the entity charged with the accounting for the vessel in respect to the maritime mobile and maritime mobile-satellite services. Make a selection from Annex E
	AAIC Used for INMARSAT: If a separate entity from the above, the Accounting Authority Identification Code of the entity charged with the accounting for the vessel in respect to the maritime mobile-satellite service only. Make a selection from Annex E
	Vessel Identification Number: The registration number (maximum 15 characters) as issued by the Transport Canada Ship Registrar or Service Canada, or the seven digit International Maritime Organization (IMO) Number as issued by the IMO
x	INMARSAT Identity(ies): INMARSAT Mobile Number(s) (IMN) assigned to each INMARSAT mobile terminal on board (mandatory if installed)
	Additional Information and/or Instructions:

Annex C - MMSI Application Form - Coast Station

Part A - Action: O Assign a new MMSI O Modify an existing MMSI Cancel an existing MMSI

Part B - Information (✔ denotes mandatory fields and

denotes mandatory fields if issued or installed):

•	Applicant Name: Last, First
•	Applicant Telephone Number: (include country code and area code)
>	Applicant Mailing/Postal Address: (include postal code)
	Applicant Facsimile Number: (include country code and area code)
	Applicant Electronic Mail Address:
æ	MMSI: Nine digit Maritime Mobile Service Identity beginning with 00316
~	Vessel Owner Information: (if different from applicant fields)
~	Last, First or Company name:
~	Full mailing address including postal code:
~	Telephone: (include country code and area code)
	Fax:
	E-mail:
~	Station Location: Name of the geographical location of the radio station
~	Latitude: Latitude, in degrees, minutes and seconds, of the radio station
V	Longitude: Longitude, in degrees, minutes and seconds, of the radio station
~	Company Code: Nine digit company code as issued by Industry Canada
V	Licence Number: Seven digit licence number as issued by Industry Canada
~	Call Sign: Radio call sign as issued by Industry Canada

٨	_	_		
А	n	n	ex	ι.

Additional Information and/or Instructions:						

Annex D - MMSI Application Form - Ship Station Group

Part A - Action: ○ Assign a new MMSI ○ Modify an existing MMSI ○ Cancel an existing MMSI

Part B - Information (✔ denotes mandatory fields and ⋈ denotes mandatory fields if issued or installed):

•	Applicant Name: Last, First
•	Applicant Telephone Number: (include country code and area code)
V	Applicant Mailing/Postal Address: (include postal code)
	Applicant Facsimile Number: (include country code and area code)
	Applicant Electronic Mail Address:
×	MMSI: Nine digit Maritime Mobile Service Identity beginning with 0316 (mandatory only if previously issued or installed)
~	Ship Station Group Name: Name as adopted by the group of vessels
•	Ship Station Group Contact Name: Name of the individual representing the group of vessels with respect to radio communication matters
~	Ship Station Group Contact Information: (if different from Applicant fields)
~	Full mailing address including postal code:
~	Telephone (including country code and area code):
	Fax:
	E-mail:
~	Ship Station Group Contact Vessel Name: Name of the vessel operated by the Ship Station Group Contact individual
•	Ship Station Group Contact Vessel MMSI: Maritime Mobile Service Identity of the vessel operated by the Ship Station Group Contact individual

Annex D

V	Emergency Contact Person Ashore Name and Address:
•	Emergency Contact Person Ashore Telephone Number: (include country code and area code)
V	Emergency Contact Person Ashore Facsimile Number: (include country code and area code)
	Additional Information and/or Instructions:

Annex E - International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Codes

General Classification of vessels

Fishing vessel	FV	Naval ship	NS	Pleasure craft	PL	River vessel	NF
Merchant ship	MM	Official service ship	GV	Rescue vessel	SV	Unspecified	XX

Individual Classification of vessels

A Aircraft Carrier Air Cushion vehicle Auxiliary ship B Banker Barge Barge carrier Bulk carrier Buoy ship	PTA ACV AUX MOR CHA CH BLK BLS	F Factory ship Fast patrol ship Ferry Firefloat Fishing guard Fishing vessel Floating crane Forest-product carrier Frigate Fruit carrier	BTA FPS FBT PMP PHS PH GRF TPW FRT FRU
C Cable ship Cargo and passenger Cargo ship Cement carrier Coaster Coast-guard Collier Container ship Corvette Cruiser Customs launch Cutter	CBL PMX CA CIM CAB CGT COA CON COR CRO CCOU CTR	G General cargo Grain carrier H Helicopter carrier Hospital ship Hydrofoil Hydrographic ship I Ice breaker Inspection ship	GEN GRC PTH HOP VDT HYD
Despatch vehicle Destroyer Dredger Drilling unit Dry cargo E Escort ship	AVI DES DRG PER DRY	K Ketch L Launch Lighter Lighthouse tender Lightship Liner Liquefied gas carrier Livestock carrier Lobster ship Lugger	DUN VDO BAR PHR PHA PAQ TPG PBE LAN LOU

Annex E

M		S	
Mine Layer	MOU	Sailing ship	VLR
Minesweeper	DMN	Salvage ship	RAM
Motor boat	MTB	Schooner	GOL
		Ship used by divers	DIV
N		Sloop	SLO
Naviplane	NVP	Solvent carrier	TPS
		Standby safety vessel	SEC
0		Submarine	SMN
Oceanographic ship	OSC	Supply vessel	RAV
Ocean-station vessel	OSV		
Oil tanker	OIL	Т	
Ore-bulk-oil-carrier	OBO	Tanker	CIT
Ore carrier	TPO	Training ship	ECO
		Tramp	TRA
P		Transport	TPT
Passenger ship	PA	Trawler	CHR
Patrol ship	SRV	Tunny ship	THO
Pilot tender	PLT		
Platform	PLE	U	
Pollution vessel	NET	Unspecified	XXX
Pontoon	PON		
Pusher/Tug	TUG	V	
		Vehicle carrier	TVH
R			
Reefer	FRG	W	
Rescue vessel	SAU	Warship	GS
Research/Survey vessel	EXP	Waste incinerator	ICN
Rock breaker	ROC	Weather ship	FRM
RoRo ship	ROU	Whaler	BLN
		Υ	
		Yacht	YAT

Annex E

(Continued)

Nature of Service

Station open to official correspondence exclusively	CO
Station open to public correspondence	CP
Station open to limited public correspondence	CR
Station open exclusively to correspondence of a private agency	CV
Station open exclusively to operational traffic of the service concerned	OT

Service Available (for use with Nature of Service CP or CR only)

Radiotelephone calls	С
Radiotelex calls	D
OBS messages (voluntary observing ship)	0
Facsimile communications	Р
Radiotelegrams	R

Hours of Service

Continuous service throughout the 24 hours	H24
16-hour service provided by a ship station of the second category	16
8-hour service provided by a ship station of the third category	H8
Intermittent service throughout the 24 hours, or station having no specific working hours	HX
Day service	HJ
Night service	HN

Telegraphy Frequency Bands

Frequency bands used in the maritime mobile-satellite service	S
Bands between 110 and 160 kHz	W
Bands between 415 and 535 kHz	Χ
Bands between 1605 and 4000 kHz	Υ
Bands between 4000 and 27500 kHz	Z

Telephony Frequency Bands

Frequency bands used in the maritime mobile-satellite service	S
Bands between 1605 and 4000 kHz	Т
Bands between 4000 and 27500 kHz	U
Bands between 156 and 174 MHz	V

Accounting Authority Identification Code (AAIC)

CA01
0/101
CA03

(or a foreign Accounting Authority accredited by Industry Canada)

Length Overall vs Gross Tonnage for Pleasure Crafts of 12 Metres or Less

Length Overall	Gross To	nnage	Length Overall Gross To	onnage
less than 8.5 m		5	10 m or more but less than 10.5 m	10
8.5 m or more but less	than 9 m	6	10.5 m or more but less than 11 m	11
9 m or more but less th	nan 9.5 m	7	11 m or more but less than 11.5 m	13
9.5 m or more but less	than 10 m	8	11.5 m or more but not exceeding 12 m	15