

Circular 106 / 2015**To: Vessel Owners, Managers, Masters, Officers, Deputy Registrars, Surveyors and Other Interested Parties****Subject: London P&I Club Calls for Improved Onboard Awareness****Date: 29 June 2015****Summary**

The London P&I Club has called for greater familiarization by ships' officers and crews with the testing requirements relating to Voyage Data Recorders after two recent claims incidents investigated by the club's loss prevention team revealed VDR malfunctions.

In both claims, when the VDR data had been retrieved and analyzed, it was apparent that certain required sensors were not feeding data to the VDR unit at the material time. This led to delay in the analysis of the incidents, and to loss of important claims handling information.

The club notes that masters and operators should already be aware of the requirements for the annual testing of VDR equipment prescribed under SOLAS 5 Regulation 18, which stipulates that VDR systems, including all sensors, should be subjected to an annual performance test. Such tests should be conducted by an approved testing or servicing facility to verify the accuracy, duration and recoverability of recorded data. In addition, tests and inspections should be conducted to determine the serviceability of all protective enclosures and devices fitted to aid location, and a compliance certificate retained on board.

Ian Barr, claims director with the club's management team, says, "Analysis of a small selection of VDR operators' manuals by the club has shown that, in general, VDR units have a means of ascertaining that they are receiving data from the required sensors. It seems that the provision of LED lights in combination is a popular method of communicating such information to the operator, along with the provision of individual error codes.

"Ships' officers who are responsible for such equipment should ensure that they are fully conversant with the error codes / indications in the appropriate VDR operating manual. Consideration should also be given to the routine assessment of such indicators and / or test sequences as deemed appropriate.

Original Article can be found [here](#)

What to do

Maritime Cook Islands encourages owners and relevant service provider to ensure annual testing takes into consideration the points above.

Cook Islands Approved VDR Service Providers

For a list of service providers in your area please contact your local Deputy Registrar or Maritime Cook Islands Fleet Manager.

If the service provider is not on the MCI approved service providers list but is already approved by an IACS Class society they will be approved by Maritime Cook Islands. Please contact your Deputy Registrar or Maritime Cook Islands Fleet Manager to arrange the MCI certificate of Approval and have the service provider added to the MCI Approved service provider list.

If an IACS Class Society has not already approved the VDR service provider, a full application to MCI for approval will need to be made. Please contact your Deputy Registrar or Maritime Cook Islands Fleet Manager for application instructions.

For all further enquiries, please contact the Technical Department at df@maritimecookislands.com.