

**Circular 38 / 2012****To: Vessel Managers, Masters, Officers, Deputy Registrars, Surveyors and Other Interested Parties****Subject: SSAS****Date: 1 June 2012****Summary:**

## Referencing

- SOLAS chapter XI-2, Special Measures to Enhance Maritime Security; Regulation 6, Ship security Alert System
- International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code, Section A/9
- MSC.147 (77), Performance Standards for SSAS
- MSC.1/Circ.1190, Guidance on the Provision of Information for Identifying Ships When Transmitting Ship Security Alerts

The intent of the ship security alert system is to send a covert signal or message from a ship which will not be obvious to anyone on the ship who is not aware of the alert mechanism. The procedures for the security alert are agreed with the ships Administration as part of the ship security plan and ideally should be individual to the ship. It is not intended that the ship security alert procedures should be to an internationally agreed standard or conform to any particular format for all ships.

Regulation 6 of SOLAS chapter XI-2 requires ships to be provided with a ship security alert system. All ships shall be provided with a ship security alert system, as follows:

1. ships constructed on or after 1 July 2004;
2. passenger ships, including high-speed passenger craft, constructed before 1 July 2004, not later than the first survey of the radio installation after 1 July 2004;
3. oil tankers, chemical tankers, gas carriers, bulk carriers and cargo high speed craft, of 500 gross tonnage and upwards constructed before 1 July 2004, not later than the first survey of the radio installation after 1 July 2004; and
4. other cargo ships of 500 gross tonnage and upward and mobile offshore drilling units constructed before 1 July 2004, not later than the first survey of the radio installation after 1 July 2006.

The ship owner/master are hereby notified that [sos-alert@maritimecookislands.com](mailto:sos-alert@maritimecookislands.com) must be programmed as a recipient of an SSA.

Information to be provided in messages to [sos-alert@maritimecookislands.com](mailto:sos-alert@maritimecookislands.com) must include the following:

- .1 Name of ship;
- .2 IMO Ship identification number;
- .3 Call Sign;
- .4 Maritime Mobile Service Identity;
- .5 GNSS position (latitude and longitude) of the ship; and
- .6 Date and time of the GNSS position

When MCI receives notification of a ship security alert, that is not a test, MCI shall immediately notify the State(s) in the vicinity of which the ship is presently operating. (XI-2 6.6)

For further information or clarification please contact the Registrar of Ships, a Deputy Registrar or Fleet Manager at Maritime Cook Islands; alternatively you may contact Maritime Cook Islands Head Office at +682 23848 Phone, +682 23846 Fax, [info@maritimecookislands.com](mailto:info@maritimecookislands.com)

Please ensure this has been forwarded to interested parties.

