

**Circular 216 /2019**

**To:** Vessel Owners, Managers, Masters, Officers, Deputy Registrars Authorised Persons, Deputy Registrars, Surveyors, MCI Staff and other interested parties.

**Subject:** AIS Regulation Compliance

**References:** SOLAS Chapter V, Regulation 19

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019

**Summary:**

Vessel owners, managers, masters, officers and authorised persons are reminded of their obligation of SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 19, *the regulation requires AIS to be fitted aboard all ships of 300 gross tonnage and upwards engaged on international voyages, cargo ships of 500 gross tonnage and upwards not engaged on international voyages and all passenger ships irrespective of size.*

Failure to comply with AIS requirements, as per SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 19, will lead to penalties as prescribed by the Cook Islands Maritime Transport Act and to any further actions as deemed appropriate by Maritime Cook Islands. Furthermore, failure to transmit AIS is regarded as highly suspicious by authorities monitoring the movement of vessels in the world and is likely to lead to attention from Port State Control Authorities, Customs Officers and Sanctions Compliance Authorities.

Consequent delays and costs for all parties involved can easily be avoided by ensuring that the AIS is operating at all times.

In the event of an AIS failure you must immediately advise the Flag Administration. The Flag Administration will issue a statement to enable smooth transition from current location to next port of call where the AIS will be repaired.

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