



FFA

CIRCULAR REF: 09/18

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TO: ALL FFA FISHING VESSEL OPERATORS

FROM: SU'A N.F. TANIELU, DIRECTOR-GENERAL

SUBJECT: CHANGES TO THE FFA VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM (VMS) TYPE APPROVAL PROCEDURE

An important update

In April 2008 FFA published important information on the FFA web site about changes to the FFA VMS Type Approval procedure. FFA is changing the way in which VMS units are type approved and has updated the list of type approved units as outlined in the attached document.

Fishing operators were advised to become familiar with the new requirements so they were in a position to meet these requirements by the specified due dates and ensure that the VMS unit on board their vessels either remains approved or is replaced/upgraded with an approved unit.

At that time fishing vessel operators were advised that units which are no longer approved (List One in the attachment) will be required to be replaced/upgraded by 30 June 2009 to a unit on List Two in the attachment.

Vessel operators were also advised that un-approved units fitted to vessels after 30 June 2009 will no longer be acceptable for use with the FFA VMS and therefore will not be able to be registered on the FFA Vessel Register.

However, due to the current global economic slowdown and financial crisis facing many fishing operators FFA has elected to adopt a longer phase-in approach and is extending the date for the full implementation of the policy and new rules a further twelve (12) months by providing special arrangements for the next registration period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 and undertakes to review the situation again before the beginning of the following registration period due to commence on 1 July 2010.

These special arrangements apply to:

1. All new applications for registration (who do not already use an MTU¹ specified on List One) must use MTU's specified on List 2 as amended from time to time.
2. Vessels applying for good standing on the FFA vessel Register may use MTU's on List 1 for the registration period 2009/2010 but only if they meet the following condition; namely that the MTU is consistently reporting automatically to the FFA VMS in accordance with FFA requirements.

¹ MTU means Mobile Transceiver Unit and is the same as ALC (Automatic Location Communicator).

For further information contact the Manager, Vessel Monitoring System on:

Telephone: +677 21124

Fax: +677 23995

Email: vessel.register@ffa.int



Su'a N.F. Tanielu
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Cc: FFA Officials and Fisheries Contacts

FFA VMS Unit Approvals

This document contains important information in relation to the FFA Vessel Monitoring System. Fishing operators and vendors should familiarize themselves with the contents of this document. Particularly important information is marked with the symbol:



Introduction

As of 1 May 2008 FFA has changed the specifications for the type approval of units used with the FFA Vessel Monitoring System. This document outlines the changes and defines how FFA will treat the units that were approved prior to the new specifications being approved.

The new specifications have been produced as a result of changes in technology and changes in the way in which VMS is used now and into the future. The new specifications harmonise with other type approval specifications in use around the world.

This means FFA can take advantage of changes in technology and simplifies the process for vendors applying for type approval in other jurisdictions.

The new specifications can be found on www.ffa.int.

Changes to the Type Approval Specifications

The new specifications provide a more rigorous approach to type approval than had previously been the case.

The new specifications also provide for the approval of terminals attached to units to allow for the cost effective transmission of catch data to FFA. In addition the specifications also apply to the Mobile Communications Service Provider (MCSP) to ensure the integrity and timeliness of the data transmitted to FFA from fishing vessels.

In harmonizing the specifications FFA has also changed the terminology for units as the older terminology is generally Inmarsat-C specific. Consequently the following terminology is now in use:

MTU = Mobile Transceiver Unit (old terminology = ALC), a unit which meets the basic functional requirements for VMS.

E-MTU = Enhanced Mobile Transceiver Unit, a unit which meets the enhanced functional requirements for the transmission of data (eg catch data) to FFA.

MCSP = Mobile Communications Service Provider, the provider of the communications system, eg Stratos or Vizada for Inmarsat-C, Iridium, etc.

Benefits

- Greater confidence in the accuracy and timeliness of the data provided to FFA from fishing vessels
- Allows for the approval of units that have been approved under similar specifications elsewhere without extended testing, providing greater opportunity for vendors in the Pacific region, resulting in greater choice for the fishing industry.
- Ability to transmit catch and effort information using VMS units on board fishing vessels to FFA in a manner that is cost effective, consistent, timely and accurate.

Approved Units

Prior to the new specifications being finalised a number of units were approved that are no longer supplied or do not meet the new specifications. In addition these units do not provide the functionality required for future use with VMS, such as electronic reporting of catch and effort information. The list of type approved units changes from time to time and can be found at www.ffa.int.



Consequently, FFA has revised the list of approved units and a number of units are (refer List One below) no longer approved but may be used until 30 June 2010 so long as this MTU is consistently reporting automatically to the FFA VMS in accordance with FFA requirements. After this date and pending the outcome of the review all vessels on the FFA register may then be required to have fitted a type approved units (refer List Two below).

Vendors will be given the opportunity to update the un-approved units so that they meet the new specifications but the responsibility will lie with the vendors and not FFA. Fishing operators should not assume that units will be updated.



Fishing operators should be aware that only “E-MTUs” are approved for transmission of catch and effort data. FFA is considering the electronic transmission of catch and effort data on a fishery by fishery basis. Operators should therefore give careful consideration to their choice of units as units currently classed only as MTUs will **not** meet the requirements for electronic transmission of catch and effort data.

List One: units that are no longer approved but may be used **until 30 June 2010** are:

Model Name	Model N°	Software Version
Thrane and Thrane (Sailor) Capsat Transceiver	TT-3022D	3.11
Thrane and Thrane (Sailor) Capsat Transceiver	TT-3022D	3.24
Thrane and Thrane (Sailor) Capsat Transceiver	TT-3022D	3.28
Thrane and Thrane (Sailor) Capsat Transceiver	TT-3026S	2.12
Japan Radio Company Limited Inmarsat-C Transceiver	JUE-75C	8.0
Japan Radio Company Limited Inmarsat-C Transceiver	JUE-75C	6.1
Trimble Galaxy Transceiver	TNL 7001	5.10a
Trimble Galaxy Transceiver	TNL 7005	5.10
Trimble Galaxy Transceiver (Sentinel)	TNL 8001	5.10
Trimble Galaxy Transceiver (Courier)	TNL 8005	5.10
Furuno Inmarsat-C MES Transceiver	Felcom 15	DCE F15 V02+FFA
Furuno Inmarsat-C Transceiver	Felcom 12 (IC-2112)	DCE Version 07+FFA
Furuno Inmarsat-C Transceiver	Felcom 12 (IC-2112)	DCE Version 08+FFA
Sailor Inmarsat-C MES Transceiver (SAT-C)	H1622D	TT-10202A Version 3.21 non-SOLAS

List Two: units that are approved (refer list of type approved units on www.ffa.int) for continued use after 30 June 2009 are:

Type	Model Name	Model N°	Software Version	E-MTU terminal	Additional Comment
E-MTU	Thrane and Thrane (Sailor) Capsat Transceiver	TT-3026D Mini-C	2.21 using FFA 3026 configuration guide Version 3026-1.0	Thrane and Thrane 3036XP Terminal	
E-MTU	Faria Watchdog (Iridium)	750VMS		V-TERM Terminal	
MTU	Thrane and Thrane (Sailor) Capsat Transceiver	TT-3022D	3.32 using FFA 3022 configuration guide Version 3022-1.0	N/A	
MTU	Thrane and Thrane (Sailor) Capsat Transceiver	TT-3026S Mini-C	2.21 using FFA 3026 configuration guide Version 3026-1.0	N/A	
MTU	Thrane and Thrane (Sailor) Capsat Transceiver	TT-3026D Mini-C	2.21 using FFA 3026 configuration guide Version 3026-1.0	N/A	
MTU	Japan Radio Company Limited Inmarsat-C Transceiver	JUE-95VM	1.0	N/A	
MTU	Furuno Inmarsat-C MES Transceiver (includes the Nera Mini-C model)	Felcom 16	DCE F16 V02+FFA	N/A	
MTU	Faria Watchdog (Iridium)	750VMS		N/A	

Expiry of Type Approval

Type approval of units will be issued for an initial period of four years. At the end of this period FFA will review the approval of units and may grant approval for units for a further period.

FFA reserves the right to remove units from the type approved list under circumstances FFA deems fit. Such circumstances may include but not be limited to:

- units are found not to meet the type approval specifications
- security flaws discovered in a unit
- manufacturer's cease to supply and/or support a unit, i.e. the unit reaches the end of its economic life.