



**FFA**

1 March 2010  
File Ref: SO/6

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**TO: ALL FISHING VESSEL OPERATORS**

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

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

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 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 2010 to 30 June 2011 and undertakes to review the situation again before the beginning of the following registration period due to commence on 1 July 2011.

These special arrangements apply to:

1. All new applications for registration (who do not already use an MTU 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 2010/2011 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.

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

Telephone: +677 21124  
Fax: +677 23995  
Email: [vessel.register@ffa.int](mailto:vessel.register@ffa.int)

Su'a N.F. Tanielu  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Cc: FFA Official Contacts  
FFA Fisheries Contacts  
All National Licensing and Surveillance Authorities