




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 Units, 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 change 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 2011, 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 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 2011 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-75CV	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 DCE F16 V03+FFA	N/A	
MTU	Faria Watchdog (Iridium)	750VMS		N/A	
MTU	CLS ARGOS Thorium	TST-100+FFA		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, ie the unit reaches the end of its economic life.