



U.S. COAST GUARD
SECTOR JUNEAU



[March 2, 2018]
MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM BROADCAST ERRORS

This Marine Safety Information Bulletin is being published to ensure mariners maintain their Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) in an effective operating condition. The integrity of AIS data transmitted by all vessels in U.S. waters is absolutely crucial. The broadcast of incorrect AIS data is a navigational hazard which could result in accidents, especially in congested waters, or extend the response time of assets during search and rescue operations.

Background – The U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center (NAVCEN) discovered numerous vessels broadcasting incorrect AIS data which is in violation of 33 Code of Federal Regulations 164.46(d)(2) and can result in civil penalties.

Sector Juneau, in concert with NAVCEN, is issuing deficiencies to vessel owners and operators who are broadcasting incorrect AIS data. To assist with complying with AIS regulations NAVCEN maintains the Vessel Information Verification Service (VIVS) found at <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/vivs>. VIVS is a self-help web application which allows vessel owners to validate their AIS transmitted information. To help understand AIS errors NAVCEN has an AIS Encoding Guide found at <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pdf/AIS/AISGuide.pdf>. NAVCEN also has a tool to show current AIS discrepancies found at <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/aisSearch/>. When you input your vessel's information on NAVCEN's AIS search, non-compliant vessels will have a red YES listed under Errors. To view your discrepancies, check the box next to view and double click on the underlined view tab.

NAVCEN regularly extracts AIS data. Several factors can cause your AIS system to become non-compliant, for example; a recently updated FCC Station License, having multiple Maritime Mobile Service Identity numbers, formatting errors, and incomplete length or measurement data. To avoid any potential civil penalties, several days prior to operating I highly recommend you verify your AIS information. If you receive a letter from Sector Juneau notifying you of discrepant AIS data being broadcast, please promptly notify my staff once all your AIS discrepancies have been corrected.

Contact – For any questions regarding this MSIB, please contact your nearest Marine Safety Unit.

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Sincerely,

G. L. FREEMAN

Commander, U. S. Coast Guard

Alternate Captain of the Port, Southeast Alaska