

Draft for Comments

File No.: 25-20011/3/2022-NT – DGS

Date:29.04.2022

Subject: Automatic Identification System (AIS) on ships in Indian waters-reg.

Automatic Identification System (AIS) is required to be fitted as per Regulation V/19 of the SOLAS Convention, which lists out the navigation equipments to be carried on board ships, according to ships type.

2. IMO Resolution A.917 (2), provides guidelines for the onboard operational use of ship-board Automatic Identification System (AIS). The said guidelines also empower the master to switch off the AIS in certain circumstances pertaining to safety and security. The relevant section of the said Resolution is as follows:

“If the Master believes that the continual operation of AIS might compromise safety or security of his /her ship, the AIS may be switched off. Switching off the AIS should always be recorded in the ship’s log book along with the reason”.

3. In case of situations in which the Master decides to switch off the AIS in Indian waters, the Master is required to immediately intimate the same to the MRCC and DG COMM Centre.

4. In Indian waters the Master shall also inform MRCC and DG COMM Centre, if AIS is non-operational as such vessels could pose a security threat.

5. Considering the security implications, such vessels with non-operational AIS or AIS switched off without informing the concerned authorities, pose such vessels shall be required to comply with the following:

- a) Vessel will be detained for a period of one month
- b) Pay fee of Rupees Eight Lakhs (8,00,000/-), as per the principles contained in section 25 of DG Shipping Circular No. 13 of 2010 for ships operating without valid certificates, as non-operation AIS effects safety.
- c) Action may also be initiated against master and owners of the vessel.

6. This is issued with the approval of Nautical Advisor to the Government of India (i/c).

Capt.Prashant Manchalwar
Nautical surveyor-cum-DDG (Tech)