

COMSAR Correspondence Group on Long Range Identification & Tracking of ships

WORK PLAN

Introduction

This work plan has been developed in order to facilitate the work of the COMSAR intersessional correspondence group established by COMSAR 9 to consider the LRIT tasks allocated to COMSAR by MSC.

The correspondence group's terms of reference, set out in COMSAR 9/WP.5/Rev.1 are at Annex A. A list of the correspondence group's members, affiliations, and email addresses is at Annex B. A .pdf version of the draft SOLAS Amendment (COMSAR 9/WP.5/Rev.1 Annex 1) and the performance standards for LRIT (COMSAR 9/WP.5/Rev.1 Annex 2) are provided as separate files accompanying this email.

This work plan considers each task individually. Under each, it provides:

1. a brief summary of the conclusions of, and guidance to the correspondence group provided by COMSAR 9;
2. references to relevant papers from previous COMSAR sessions or other background material; and
3. an outline of the correspondence group's objectives as regards the task.

You are requested to:

- *propose any suggestions for points (2) and (3) for each task; and/or*
- *volunteer expert assistance and/or suggest relevant reference material for any or all of the tasks.*

Correspondence group members do not have to contribute to all tasks, only to those which time, expertise and interest permit. All members will have the opportunity to review any of the work being conducted by the correspondence group as it progresses, as well as to review the group's final report to the Sub-Committee.

Correspondence group members are requested to note the timeline for this work, below. Although we will be flexible as regards this timeline throughout our work – and in particular will welcome new members, comments or material at any time – the final date for submission of our work to IMO *must* be met.

Correspondence group members are strongly urged to seek contributions under any of the task headings from relevant experts.

Contacts

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(Note: underscores "_" are required where spaces are indicated in the address)

Timeline

18 March 2005	Correspondence group members provide recommended changes to the work plan
31 March 2005	Correspondence group members agree on the work plan and commence work
April – August	Timeline for work on each task will vary, as agreed by those working on each, keeping the co-ordinator informed of progress
31 August 2005	Draft task texts passed to co-ordinator for dissemination to whole correspondence group for comment
30 September 2005	Final draft task texts passed to co-ordinator for collation into draft correspondence group report
14 October 2005	Draft report circulated to correspondence group for comment
14 November 2005	Comments on full text passed to co-ordinator for final edit
25 November 2005	Final draft report circulated to correspondence group
[2 December 2005]	Report submitted to IMO

Task 1: LRIT international database

1. Summary of COMSAR 9's conclusions & guidance to the correspondence group:

Determine the need for multiple copies of the LRIT international database, widely distributed around the world in order to ensure that the database is robust and able to withstand equipment failure

2. Background material
3. Outline of the correspondence group's objectives as regards this task

Task 2: Data Security

1. Summary of COMSAR 9's conclusions & guidance to the correspondence group

Determine the requirements for the provision of data security including data encryption, authentication and physical security.

2. Background material
3. Outline of the correspondence group's objectives as regards this task

Task 3: Requesting LRIT information directly from an LRIT Tracking Service

1. Summary of COMSAR 9's conclusions & guidance to the correspondence group

Determine whether a Contracting Government should be permitted to request LRIT information directly from an LRIT Tracking Service on any ship for which they are entitled to obtain LRIT information, or whether requests for information directly from LRIT Tracking Services should be limited to Administrations seeking information on ships flying their flag;.

2. Background material

3. Outline of the correspondence group's objectives as regards this task

Task 4: Archiving LRIT information

1. Summary of COMSAR 9's conclusions & guidance to the correspondence group

Determine whether the LRIT Data Centre or LRIT Tracking Services should have the capability to archive LRIT information, and if so, for how long;

2. Background material

3. Outline of the correspondence group's objectives as regards this task

Task 5: Destruction of archived LRIT material

1. Summary of COMSAR 9's conclusions & guidance to the correspondence group

Develop protocols for the destruction of archived LRIT material after a time period to be determined.

2. Background material

3. Outline of the correspondence group's objectives as regards this task

Task 6: LRIT information latency

1. Summary of COMSAR 9's conclusions & guidance to the correspondence group

Determine whether or not there should be a limitation for LRIT information latency, and if there should be, what that limitation should be (Five minutes? One hour? Near real time?).

2. Background material

3. Outline of the correspondence group's objectives as regards this task

Task 7: LRIT requirements in SOLAS or performance standards

1. Summary of COMSAR 9's conclusions & guidance to the correspondence group

Determine which requirements related to LRIT should be included in the SOLAS provisions and which should be included in the performance standards for LRIT, so as to avoid conflicting or overlapping requirements;

2. Background material

3. Outline of the correspondence group's objectives as regards this task

Task 8: System architectures

1. Summary of COMSAR 9's conclusions & guidance to the correspondence group

Make recommendations on all system architectures that will meet LRIT performance requirements (potential service providers are encouraged to provide information in this regard);

2. Background material
3. Outline of the correspondence group's objectives as regards this task

Task 9: Variable LRIT reporting rates

1. Summary of COMSAR 9's conclusions & guidance to the correspondence group

Make recommendations regarding the ability of Contracting Governments to vary the LRIT information reporting rate from ships

2. Background material

3. Outline of the correspondence group's objectives as regards this task

Terms of Reference for the COMSAR Correspondence Group on LRIT¹

The Correspondence Group on Long-range Identification and Tracking of Ships, taking into account the instructions, decisions of, and comments and proposals made by COMSAR 8, MSC 78, MSC 79, COMSAR 9 and MSC 80, should consider and make recommendations on:

- .1 the need for multiple copies of the LRIT international database, widely distributed around the world in order to ensure that the database is robust and able to withstand equipment failure;
- .2 the requirement for provision of data security including data encryption, authentication and physical security;
- .3 whether a Contracting Government should be permitted to request LRIT information directly from an LRIT Tracking Service on any ship for which they are entitled to obtain LRIT information, or whether requests for information directly from LRIT Tracking Services should be limited to Administrations seeking information on ships flying their flag;
- .4 whether the LRIT Data Centre or LRIT Tracking Services should have the capability to archive LRIT information, and if so, for how long;
- .5 protocols for the destruction of archived LRIT material after a time period to be determined;
- .6 whether or not there should be a limitation for LRIT information latency, and if there should be, what that limitation should be (Five minutes? One hour? Near real time?);
- .7 which requirements related to LRIT should be included in the SOLAS provisions and which should be included in the performance standards for LRIT, so as to avoid conflicting or overlapping requirements;
- .8 all system architectures that will meet LRIT performance requirements (potential service providers are encouraged to provide information in this regard); and
- .9 the ability of Contracting Governments to vary the LRIT information reporting rate from ships.

¹ COMSAR 9/WP.5/Rev.1, annex 3

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