

IMSO



International
Mobile Satellite
Organization

Mr Jeffrey G. Lantz
National and International Standards
United States Coast Guard
2100 Second St SW
Washington DC 20593
United States of America

3 December 2007

Dear Mr Lantz

ESTABLISHING AN LRIT DATA CENTRE - ASSISTANCE FROM IMSO

The United States has informed the International Maritime Organization of its intention to establish a national Data Centre for Long Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT) as elaborated in document MSC 83/6/3..

As you are aware, IMSO is appointed by IMO to be the Co-ordinator for LRIT, and I am therefore writing to you to establish formal contact between us and offer the assistance of IMSO in establishing your LRIT Data Centre in the most efficient and effective manner.

It will be extremely helpful to our efforts to co-ordinate the early start-up of the international LRIT system if you would notify IMSO, at the earliest possible opportunity, of the name and contact details of your formal Point of Contact for LRIT, with whom we should conduct further discussions on this subject, and any updated information about plans for implementing the LRIT Data Centre in your country.

Both I and my predecessor as IMSO Director, Mr Jerzy Vonau, have written to you on previous occasions, in March and July of this year, to invite SOLAS Contracting Governments to contribute financially to the funds needed by IMSO in order for us to be able to meet the started objectives and requirements of IMO in this regard. You will be pleased to know that IMSO has now received funds, or firm promises of funding, from a number of governments. Unfortunately, the sums received so far will not be sufficient to allow IMSO to undertake all of the LRIT work

99 City Road, London EC1Y 1AX
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7728 1249
Facsimile: +44 (0)20 7728 1172

Email: info@imso.org
Website: www.imso.org

that is expected of it during the start up period until the LRIT system is fully operational.

However, you will be aware that the timescales for implementing LRIT are extremely tight, and very many countries may have difficulty meeting the implementation schedule. One of the key responsibilities of the LRIT Co-ordinator is to assist with the establishment of parts of the LRIT infrastructure, including participation in the testing for the integration of new LRIT Data Centres into the LRIT system and participation in the testing of procedures for communications between LRIT Data Centres.

As LRIT Coordinator, IMSO is already active in providing such assistance, and I am pleased to be able to offer the services of my expert staff to help assess your present plans for implementing LRIT and advise on efficient and effective implementation. We are already undertaking visits to those countries which have requested them.

The benefits of such a visit can be significant:

.1 you will receive clear and unbiased information on the most efficient way for your country to meet its LRIT obligations as a Contracting Government to SOLAS;

.2 you can establish a close professional relationship with the LRIT Co-ordinator, as LRIT Audit and Review authority, at an early stage in the implementation process;

.3 you can understand the developing technical specifications and audit requirements - as they develop; and

.4 you will receive a written report on the findings of the visit, with recommendations for action.

Since IMSO has not yet received the full start-up funding it needs to carry out this work, it would be expected that your Government covers the total costs associated to this visit, including professional, travel and subsistence costs. These costs are minor in comparison with the potential benefits, and will contribute to the funding of the IMSO budget. I urge you to consider the advantages of accepting the assistance of

IMSO on this basis at an early stage in order to better prepare the effective implementation of the LRIT system globally.

I am also taking this opportunity to once again request your active assistance in making available any further contribution, however small, to the necessary funding in order to enable IMSO to fulfil its functions as LRIT Coordinator and to commence in earnest its work of coordinating the global implementation of LRIT at the earliest possible moment.

I am copying this letter to Mr Steve Lett, International Communications and Information Policy, US Department of State and to Mr William R. Meara, Counsellor for Environment, Science and Technology, United States Embassy, London, for their information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Pacha', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Esteban Pacha
Director