



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 850 of 6th November 2024

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Ship Reporting System in the Pentland Firth (PENTREP)
Reference	Resolution MSC.530(106))

NAVIGATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND SEARCH AND RESCUE

Amendments to ECDIS Performance Standards (Resolution MSC.530(106)) to Facilitate a Standardized Digital Exchange of Ships' Route Plans.

The Committee adopted revisions to Performance standards for electronic chart display and information systems (ECDIS) (MSC.530(106)), to include in the standard a way to digitally exchange ships' route plans and instructed the NCSR Sub-Committee to consider the development of appropriate operational guidance for route exchange.

This change is intended to reduce the workload of bridge and shoreside personnel while at the same time increasing the safety of navigation. A standardized and cyber-secure method for route exchange from ship-to-shore and shore-to-ship would also increase port efficiency and allow slow-steaming, Just In Time Arrival (JIT) and reduce turnaround times in the port, which is beneficial for the environment and the reduction of costs in line with the IMO Initial GHG Strategy. This may also become a feature facilitating automated or autonomous (MASS) operations in the future. Resolution MSC.530(106)/Rev.1 will be applicable to both new and existing ECDIS installations.

Recognition of the Ship Reporting System in the Pentland Firth (PENTREP)

The Committee approved SN.1/Circ.343 on Recognition of ship reporting system in the Pentland Firth (PENTREP), area of the United Kingdom, under the established practices of SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 11, to be implemented on December 1, 2024. Pentland Firth is located in the northern part of the United Kingdom, and it separates the Orkney Islands from the Scottish mainland. The passage through Pentland Firth is approximately 15 nautical miles long and is 7 nautical miles wide at its widest. Due to the conditions of strong winds, strong tidal streams and violent and confusing seas which are regularly encountered in this area, navigation through the Firth requires careful preparation and particular attention at all times. A long history of regular vessel casualties in this area supports the establishment of a ship reporting system.

The PENTREP reporting system will apply to all ships of 300 gross tonnage and over. The following reports are to be provided to the Shetland Coastguard:

1. Entry Report (notifying specific vessel information upon entering the Pentland Firth)

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2. Defect Report (notifying of any damage or safety conditions onboard the vessel)

3. AIS will be the primary mechanism for exit reports on ships exiting the area

Shetland Coastguard will provide vital information on navigational and meteorological warnings, and weather forecasts to vessels entering the area, as required.

REFERENCES:

- Amendments to ECDIS Performance Standards

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
CONARINA Technical Office

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