



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Ship Security Alert Systems (SSAS)
Competent Authority as Designated by the Isle of Man Ship Registry**

The aim of this notice is to provide guidance on Ship Security Alert Systems (SSAS) and the designation of "Competent Authorities" under the International Ship & Port Facility Security Code and SOLAS Amendments 2002.

This notice has been updated on 25/02/2016 to advise clients that the handling of SSAS alerts has transferred from MRCC Falmouth to HM Coastguard's National Maritime Operations Centre.

Most Regulations and notices are available on the Isle of Man Government website: www.iomshipregistry.com or by contacting marine.survey@gov.im

Update - February 2016

At present the operational function to receive and respond to SSAS notifications for the Isle of Man is managed by HM Coastguard MRCC Falmouth. From 15th February 2016, this function has transferred to HM Coastguard's National Maritime Operations Centre (NMOC) in Fareham, Hampshire.

Company Security Officers (CSOs) of all Isle of Man registered ships must ensure the email address in their SSAS is updated to include the new NMOC email address and the old Falmouth Coastguard address is removed. The new email address for transmitting covert alerts to NMOC is ssas@hmcg.gov.uk

This must be updated as soon as possible and no later than the ship's next statutory radio survey or 1st July 2018, whichever is earlier.

The dedicated telephone number for NMOC in Fareham is **+44 344 3820027** and should be used to notify of any maritime security incidents and to verify SSAS alerts.

Introduction

A SSAS transmits a security alert to the shore to indicate to a "Competent Authority" that the security of the ship is under threat or has been compromised. It is required on all Manx commercially registered vessels of 500GT and over (including mobile offshore drilling units), engaged on international voyages, plus passenger vessels (including high speed passenger craft) of all sizes.

Ship Security Alert System Specifications / Performance Standards

The requirement for a SSAS may be complied with by using a radio installation fitted in compliance with SOLAS CH IV (GDMSS) provided that it meets the requirements set out in SOLAS CH XI-2, Regulation 6, or an equivalent system.

The SSAS shall conform to performance standards not inferior to those in IMO Resolution MSC 147/77, (adopted 29th May 2003) as amended.

Testing

The SSAS should be tested routinely at least on an annual basis.

NMOC should be contacted by telephone or email before any test message is sent. The preferred method is by using email. Any test email should clearly state "TEST". All alert messages should be sent to the Competent Authority as well as NMOC.

NMOC will regard any message received that does not contain the word "TEST" as real and it will be acted upon accordingly.

Competent Authority

Every ship must have a Competent Authority ashore who receives ship to shore security alerts transmitted by the SSAS. The Company¹ or a third party may act as the Competent Authority.

The Isle of Man Ship Registry must be satisfied that the Competent Authority has:

- a) 24 hour monitoring for SASS alerts; and
- b) Procedures/systems in place to provide the coordinating roles in the 'Alert Procedure' as detailed below.

The Company¹ is required to complete a Competent Authority Form (CAF) which provides details of the Competent Authority nominated for each ship (see sample CAF in Annex A). Once satisfied the Isle of Man Ship Registry will revert to the Company¹ with an approval.

Alert Procedure

1. On activation of the SASS the security alert is immediately sent to the Competent Authority, NMOC and the Isle of Man Ship Registry.
2. The Competent Authority contacts the ship by agreed, covert means to validate the status of the security alert.
3. The Competent Authority telephones NMOC within 15 minutes to confirm or cancel the security alert.
4. If NMOC hears nothing from the Competent Authority within 15 minutes, NMOC telephones the Isle of Man Ship Registry.

Contact details for NMOC and Isle of Man Ship Registry can be found in Annex B.

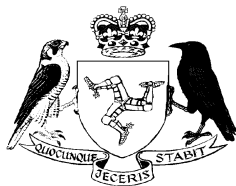
Isle of Man Ship Registry

February 2016

Please note - The Isle of Man Ship Registry cannot give legal advice. Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel. You should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.

¹ "Company" means the owner of the ship or any other organization or person such as the manager, or the bareboat charterer, who has assumed the responsibility for operation of the ship from the owner of the ship and who on assuming such responsibility has agreed to take over all the duties and responsibilities imposed by the International Safety Management Code;

Annex A



COMPETENT AUTHORITY FORM

(Please see notes overleaf prior to completion of this Form)

Under SOLAS CH XI-2, Regulation 6.2.1 every ship is required to have a Competent Authority for the purposes of receiving ship to shore security alerts. This form is to be completed by the Company who is responsible for providing details of a Competent Authority for each ship. Multiple ships may be entered on one form. The Competent Authority may be the Company, the Company that provides the SSAS equipment and receives the alert, or a Third Party.

COMPANY: ¹

NAME OF SHIP(s): (Please use extra sheets if necessary)

NAME AND ADDRESS OF PROPOSED COMPETENT AUTHORITY: ²

CONTACT DETAILS - TEL. NO (24 HOURS):

FAX NO:

E.MAIL ADDRESS:

SHIP SECURITY ALERT SYSTEM: ³

TYPE OF SHIP SECURITY ALERT SYSTEM:

***APPROVED BY:** ⁴

*Please attach copy of approval certificate

Send Completed Application form to:

Email: marine.survey@gov.im

Fax: + 44 1624 688501

Isle of Man Ship Registry

St Georges Court

Upper Church Street, Douglas

Isle of Man

IM1 1EX

Notes to help in completing the Competent Authority Form.

1. **The Company.** The Company is defined in SOLAS Chapter XI-2 Regulation 1.7, which is the owner or manager or any such organisation that has full responsibilities imposed on it by the International Safety Management Code (ISM Code).
2. **Competent Authority.** The Competent Authority is the organisation that is to receive the alert from the Ship Security Alert System (SSAS). The Competent Authority can be any one of three as listed below.
 - a. The Company as in paragraph 1
 - b. The company that provides the SSAS equipment and receives the alert
 - c. A third party contracted by the Company

Details of the Competent Authority must be entered in Section 2 of the form

3. Type of SSAS to be entered to include Make and Model
4. Please attach copy of Approval Certificate from a Recognised Classification Society or Marine Administration. If in doubt please contact this Administration for advice.
5. Please attach names of the ships for which the Competent Authority is responsible for receiving the SSAS alerts. A separate sheet may be used if required.
6. This form may be transmitted by e-mail, fax or by post.

Annex B

Contact Details

Isle of Man Ship Registry

Telephone: +44 (0) 1624 688500
Out of Hours Telephone: +44 (0) 7624 493467
Email: marine.survey@gov.im

HM Coastguard's National Maritime Operations Centre (NMOC)

24 hours Telephone: +44 344 3820027
Email: ssas@hmcg.gov.uk