TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF MERCHANT SHIPS, AGENTS AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS

SUBJECT: Vessel Reporting Systems to Assist Search and Rescue
AMVER, REEFVTS & AUSREP

Reference: Maritime Regulation 9.257(3)

Supersedes: Marine Notice REP-001, dated 1/00

PURPOSE:

This Notice emphasizes the significant role that Vessel Reporting Systems contribute to the well-being of ships and seafarers. Casualty Investigations conducted by the Administration have positively revealed the immense value reporting systems play in saving life and property.

APPLICABILITY:

All Masters and Owners are strongly urged to participate and co-operate in these systems.

DESCRIPTION:

1.0 Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System (AMVER)

1.1 The AMVER program is operated by the United States Coast Guard for the benefit of mariners of all Nations, at no cost to participating ships.

1.2 When vessels participate in the U.S. Coast Guard AMVER program, the track and all reported fixes are entered into the AMVER computer plot and made available to the Rescue Coordinating Center (RCC) that has the assigned Search and Rescue (SAR) responsibility for the area.
1.3 Details of the AMVER program and procedures may be obtained from:

Commander, Atlantic Area  
United States Coast Guard  
Federal Building  
431 Crawford Street  
Portsmouth, Virginia 23704-5004, USA  

Phone: (804) 398-6231  
Fax: (804) 398-6392  
http://www.amver.com/

1.4 Enroll in AMVER

United States Coast Guard  
Amver Maritime Relations Office  
USCG Battery Park Building  
1 South Street, 2nd FL  
New York, NY 10004-1499 U.S.A.  
Phone: (212) 668-7764  
Fax: (212) 668-7684  
http://www.amver.com/enrollment.asp  
http://www.amver.com/sarqform.asp

2.0 Australia

2.1 REEFREP/REEFVTS

The Great Barrier Reef and Torres Strait Ship Reporting System (REEFREP) was established in 1996 as an interactive mandatory ship reporting system. It was formally adopted by the IMO under the IMO’s Resolution MSC52.66 in accordance with SOLAS Regulation V/11, and later amended by Resolutions MSC.161(78) and MSC.315(88).


2.2 AUSREP

AUSREP is primarily a ship reporting system which provides a search and rescue function. Participation in AUSREP is mandatory for certain ships but most other commercial ships participate voluntarily. It provides a quick and accurate picture of which vessels are in the vicinity of a maritime emergency and ensures the safety of participating vessels as scheduled checks are part of the system.


* * * * *