The introduction of the Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) amendment to SOLAS V/19 requires all operators of ships engaged on international voyages, including passenger ships, cargo ships of 300 gross tonnage and above, and Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODUs) to provide tested and certified shipborne equipment for the transmission of LRIT information. For full details see www.lrit.com.

LRIT INMARSAT C EQUIPMENT CONFORMANCE TESTING

The introduction of the Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) amendment to SOLAS V/19 requires all operators of ships engaged on international voyages, including passenger ships, cargo ships of 300 gross tonnage and above, and Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODUs) to provide tested and certified shipborne equipment for the transmission of LRIT information. For full details see www.lrit.com.

Four simple steps to testing

1. Buy test credits from us which activates your online LRIT test account. Please email lrittesting@polestarglobal.com or phone (refer to the last page for telephone numbers).
2. Upload your entire fleet and transceiver details into the account using a preconfigured spreadsheet.
3. Decide which terminals you wish to test and start the tests at a time of your choosing.
4. Results are automatically emailed to you within 48 hours, with clear and helpful advice about what to do if your terminal failed the test. All successful test results are forwarded, free of charge, to your flag.

What do I have to do?

Compliance to LRIT is important. Some Governments have indicated that they may not grant entry to their territorial waters, or to their ports, for ships that do not comply with LRIT.

You should arrange to test your equipment as soon as possible. LRIT Conformance Test Reports (CTRs) are required for radio surveys and inspection from 31 December 2008.

Ship operators are required to provide shipborne equipment which complies with the LRIT regulation, pass a conformance test and obtain a CTR. All shipborne LRIT equipment must be tested and certified by an Authorised Testing ASP appointed by your Flag. Authorised Testing ASPs will also, on behalf of most Flags, be able to issue CTRs for transceivers that pass the test.
Why test with Pole Star?

We understand the LRIT system and what is required. We attend and contribute to the relevant IMO COMSAR, NAV, MSC, Engineering and Working Group meetings. We work with all the major satellite equipment manufacturers, communications service providers, land earth station operators, Inmarsat and other satellite communication network providers to ensure that the LRIT system works end-to-end. Pole Star is an LRIT Data Centre Administrator and an Authorised Testing ASP for over 85 Flags. See www.lrit.com for the latest information.

Pole Star’s system manages all aspects of the test, including: terminal commissioning, satellite communications network management, post-test de-commissioning, production of a detailed test result and provision of a conformance test certificate if required. Testing of shipborne Inmarsat C equipment began in July 2008 and we have conducted over 20,000 tests since then.

Our technical capability is backed up by a professional, multi-lingual customer support team with offices in both Hong Kong and the United Kingdom. Ship operators who test their LRIT transceivers with Pole Star will also be offered a free trial of our commercial Fleet Management product.

Why test now?

The vessel shows its compliance to the regulation by having on board a valid CTR, issued on behalf of their flag, in accordance with the provisions of MSC.1/Circ.1307 on Guidance on the survey and certification of compliance of ships with the requirement to transmit LRIT information.

A vessel must show compliance by the date of its first survey after 31 December 2008 or at change of flag (considered the first survey after 31 December 2008).

Although a number of Flag States are still to implement their operational LRIT Data Centre as required by Regulation V/19-1, in order to prevent Port State Controls from penalizing ships of these flags, the IMOs Maritime Safety Committee approved transitional arrangements for the compliance of vessels.

This means that as long as the vessel has complied with its LRIT obligation (provided a tested and certified transceiver in advance of the radio survey date) within the deadline, it cannot be sanctioned for matters outside its control. With this in mind, ship operators are advised to test their transceivers in good time.
How to test

We provide a web-based system where ship operators have their own account. From your account, you can initiate tests at any time and review the progress and status of your tests. The system provides error messages and suggests corrective action on failed equipment.

Our simple user-friendly interface is designed with shipowners in mind. Registering your transceivers is free. Our custom-designed import tool within our interface will allow you to import your fleet data all at once.

Once you've gathered your fleet information, our intuitive application allows you to upload your entire fleet with one click. With your testing account, you can overview the progress and status of testing of your fleet. Your results are emailed to you within 48 hours.

The imported fleet details will be transferred to the LRIT Transceiver list. Once the transceiver(s) are registered, you can start the testing process immediately.
How do I get a certificate?

Pole Star can issue LRIT CTRs on behalf of most flags. Your LRIT CTRs will be dispatched as a scan by email, and as a hard copy by courier within 3 days of receipt of payment. You can refer to www.lrit.com/testing_asp.html to find the latest list of flags we certify for.

If your Flag is issuing CTRs directly, Pole Star will forward all successful test results directly to your Flag.

Information on survey and certification

It is important to note that an existing ship safety radio certificate does not confer LRIT compliance on the ship. MSC.1/Circ.1307 regarding Guidance on the survey and certification of compliance of ships with requirement to transmit LRIT information states that compliance of the shipborne equipment with the regulation should be demonstrated by the equipment being:

1. of a type approved by the Administration in accordance with the provisions of regulation V/19-1 and section 4 of the revised performance standards; or

2. certified by the Administration as meeting the requirements of regulation IV/14 and satisfactorily completing a conformance test; or

3. certified by the Administration as meeting the requirements of IEC 60945 (2002-08) and IEC 60945 Corr.1 (2008-04) on Maritime navigation and radiocommunications equipment and systems – General Requirements – Methods of testing and required test results and satisfactorily completing a conformance test.

What should I do if my equipment fails the test?

If your shipborne equipment is non-conformant, Pole Star offers a choice of two dedicated LRIT equipment packages that include an LRIT conformance test. Both the Thane Thane SAILOR TT-3000LRIT and SkyWave DMR-800LRIT transceiver are delivered directly to your ship pre-configured and ready for immediate test, providing a cost effective LRIT compliance option where existing equipment is not suitable or where a stand-alone LRIT solution is required.