



European Maritime Safety Agency

Procedures for requesting EMSA data from maritime applications

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Objective

The purpose of this document is to indicate the different procedures which have been established by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) to manage external requests for data from the EMSA applications (including Long Range Identification and Tracking [LRIT], SafeSeaNet, CleanSeaNet and Satellite AIS data). These requests are made by European Union (EU) Member State national government authorities and EU institutions and bodies, and by projects or programmes established by these parties and working on issues of public interest.

For each specific data type, a different procedure is applied. The applicable procedures are described in this document, which provides the following information:

- What data are available;
- How to apply;
- Conditions for obtaining access to or receiving the data;
- What happens once a request has been approved.

Requesting Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) data

The procedure for external requests for LRIT data was agreed with Member States at the LRIT National Competent Authorities (NCA) meeting. The process can be initiated by letter or email, and is open to any external party requesting LRIT data for a specific purpose or project.

What data are available

LRIT is a global ship identification and tracking system based on satellite communication. Under IMO regulations, certain categories of vessels send mandatory position reports once every six hours.

LRIT data available at EMSA includes the position data of ships flying an EU Member State flag. Data dating back as far as June 2009, when the EU LRIT Data Centre was established, is available. Each position includes the latitude and longitude of the ship, as well as the ship particulars and time stamp indicating when the information was received by the Data Centre.

How to apply

The interested party should fill in the form which is available on the EMSA Website under Operational Tasks, which will be submitted automatically to EMSA.

The form will include the following information:

- Name of requesting party and contact details;
- The type of organisation;
- What the data is needed for;
- How the data will be used;
- Over what time period the data is requested.

This request will then be forwarded by EMSA to all Member State LRIT NCA to request permission to use their data. Each Member State will then respond, indicating whether they agree for their ships' LRIT data to be given to the requesting party, and whether there are any other conditions. All responses will be then summarised in a table.

Conditions for obtaining access to or receiving the data

The following are the conditions for receiving the LRIT data from EMSA:

- The LRIT data will be used only for the purpose of the project and limited to internal use by the requestor for any further scientific/statistical analysis;
- The requestor will destroy all LRIT data obtained from EMSA after the project has been completed;
- The requestor will provide EMSA with a written statement that the data destruction has been completed;
- The EU LRIT Data Centre Member States will have access to the report which is the outcome of the project and may receive a presentation on the outcome at the LRIT NCA meeting.

What happens once a request has been approved

All Member State responses to the request – approval or otherwise, and any conditions that may be attached to use of the data - are summarised in a table which is sent to the requestor. The requestor will ensure that the conditions of each request are respected. For example, some Member States may indicate that they do not want ship details appearing in the final report or that only aggregated data can be included and presented.

EMSA will then determine how best to provide data to the requestor, either through a file or specific technical interface.

Following the completion of the project, the requestor will be required to indicate the outcome of the project or work and, if appropriate, give a presentation at the LRIT NCA meeting.

Requesting CleanSeaNet image data

What data are available

The CleanSeaNet Service provides a range of products including:

- satellite radar images;
- oil spill statistics;
- vessel detection data;
- additional Member State data, e.g. on confirmation of spills.

How to apply

The interested party should fill in the form which is available on the EMSA Website under Operational Tasks, which will be submitted automatically to EMSA.

The form will include the following information:

- Name of requesting party and contact details;
- The type of organisation;
- What the data is needed for;
- How the data will be used;
- Over what time period the data is requested.

Conditions for obtaining access to or receiving the data

An analysis is made on a case-by-case basis depending on the data requested, as there may be contractual or Member State restrictions. For example, some Member States may indicate that they do not want ship details appearing in the final report, or that only aggregated data can be included and presented. After an assessment of the request has been made, the requestor is then informed what information will be made available to them and under which conditions.

The project, research body, or other requestor should demonstrate that obtaining this data will also benefit the CleanSeaNet Service.

What happens when the request has been approved

EMSA will determine how best to provide data to the requestor, either through a file or a specific technical interface.

Following the completion of the research project, the requestor will be required to indicate the outcome of the project or work including the main results, conclusions and full list of publications, which should be presented in a report to EMSA. If appropriate and requested, EMSA may ask the data requestor to give a presentation at an EMSA meeting.

Requesting Satellite AIS data

What data are available

New technologies are being developed to allow AIS reports to be received by Low Earth Orbiting (LEO) satellites. This extends the geographical range over which AIS reports can be exchanged beyond that of terrestrial AIS coverage.

Satellite AIS data available at EMSA consists of AIS position data transmitted from ships fitted with AIS equipment and which is made available to EMSA by satellite AIS data providers. Data is available from mid-2010 to the present day.

A global feed of Satellite AIS data is currently available through an arrangement that EMSA has with the European Space Agency (ESA) as part of the ESA-EMSA SAT-AIS initiative and by means of an agreement reached with the Norwegian Coastal Administration that enables EMSA to receive SAT-AIS data from the Norwegian satellite AISSat-1.

How to apply

The interested party should fill in the form which is available on the EMSA Website under Operational Tasks, which will be submitted automatically to EMSA.

The form will include the following information:

- Name of requesting party and contact details;
- The type of organisation;
- What the data is needed for;
- Type of service required:
 - Monitoring of one ship, more than one ship, or all ships;
 - Type of data (historical or real time);
 - The area of interest (preferably a polygon or coordinates);
- How the data will be used;
- Number of users;
- Over what time period the data is requested.

Conditions for obtaining access to or receiving the data

The following are the conditions for receiving Satellite AIS data from EMSA:

- The scope of the project shall not change during the provision of Satellite AIS data;
- The Satellite AIS data shall not be made available to commercial companies or to third parties;
- The Satellite AIS will be used only for the purpose of this project and internal use by the requestor for any further scientific/statistical analysis;

- The number of users should not change;
- The requestor will destroy all Satellite AIS data obtained from EMSA after the project has been completed;
- The requestor will provide EMSA with a written statement that the data destruction has been completed;
- Other conditions may apply, depending on the use intended;
- The outcome of the project/work will be presented to EMSA, and EMSA may request a presentation to be given to the European Member States or other parties.

What happens once a request has been approved

Following a thorough analysis of the request and the relevant project, EMSA will determine if the data can be provided.

The requestor will receive the data through a file or a specific technical interface.

Following the project, the requestor will be required to indicate the outcome of the project or work and if appropriate give a presentation on its outcome showing how the data was used.

Requesting access to the central SafeSeaNet web interface¹

The procedure for requesting access to the SafeSeaNet web interface 1) to Member State national government authorities for 'other purposes' and, 2) for EU institutions and bodies, was agreed at the 3rd SafeSeaNet High Level Steering Group meeting in June 2010.

Access for 'other purposes' refers to user communities of Member States who would like to access SafeSeaNet for purposes other than directly for maritime safety, port and maritime security, marine environment protection and the efficiency of maritime traffic and maritime transport. These purposes may include law enforcement, defence, border control, fisheries control, and trade and economic interests, for example.

What data are available

SafeSeaNet information includes Automatic Identification System (AIS) data as well as additional ship and voyage information.

AIS is a maritime broadcast system, based on the transmission of very high frequency radio signals. Ships send reports with ship identification, position, and course, as well as information on cargo. The AIS messages of ships transiting along the coastline of Europe are exchanged through the central SafeSeaNet system, hosted at EMSA. If access to the Graphical Interface is requested, the user will receive access to regularly updated real-time data displayed on a nautical chart.

Member States also exchange a range of additional data through SafeSeaNet, including: port notifications (e.g. arrival and departure times), Hazmat notifications (carriage of dangerous and polluting goods), ship notifications (additional information sent in mandatory reporting areas), and incident reports (e.g. pollution reports).

Most of the data is not held at the central SafeSeaNet level and has to be requested from each national Member State system.

How to apply

Requesting access to SafeSeaNet: Member State national government authorities

Requests should be made at national level for access to SafeSeaNet for 'other purposes' and addressed to the SafeSeaNet National Competent Authority (NCA), which has the role of administrator for users at a national level. To request access as a national user of SafeSeaNet, the requestor will download and fill in a form for national users – Part A, which is available on the EMSA Website under Operational Tasks. This form should be sent by post to the relevant NCA (see Annex for contact details).

After confirming that there are genuine interests which reflect the purposes and objectives of Directive 2002/59/EC as amended, the NCA may propose additional new users, and outline their roles/responsibilities to EMSA by filling a form for national users - Part B, which is available on the EMSA Website under Operational Tasks. This form and a copy of the form for national users - Part A should be sent by post to EMSA (see Annex for contact details).

¹ for users outside the SafeSeaNet legal framework

EMSA will evaluate the requests.

Requesting access to SafeSeaNet: EU institutions and bodies

EU institutions and bodies other than EMSA may have, through their founding regulations and other relevant EU legislation and policies, an objective to collect, use and disseminate maritime related data.

EU institutions and bodies may be granted access on the basis of a written request to the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE), which will verify that this is in line with the applicable legal instruments and within the scope of relevant EU policy. The requesting organisation needs to provide a clear justification of the reason why access is required and what type of access would need to be granted.

To request access to SafeSeaNet as an EU institution or body, the requestor will download and fill in the form for EU institutions and bodies which is available on the EMSA Website under Operational Tasks. This form should be sent by post to the Commission - DG-MOVE (see Annex for contact details).

Conditions for obtaining access to or receiving the data

Access rights for new users will be subject to certain conditions. Access will be granted:

- for a limited period of up to one (1) year;
- through the web interface;
- only for the information relevant to the mandate of new users, in accordance with the need to know principle;
- for a limited number of identified users.

What happens once a request has been approved

EMSA will take all necessary steps to grant access to SafeSeaNet and will indicate to the NCA and to the EU institutions and bodies the SafeSeaNet profile to be used.

If EMSA concludes that the stated roles/responsibilities of the new user, and the stated reason why the new user should have access to SafeSeaNet, do not provide sufficient justification for the type of access to SafeSeaNet (including the type of data) which the NCA has requested on the user's behalf, then EMSA may refuse access.

Access to SafeSeaNet may be revoked in cases of proven or suspected misuse, or for use not compliant with the conditions specified.

Following the completion of the project, the requestor will be required to indicate the outcome of the project or work and, if appropriate, give a presentation on its outcome showing how the data was used.

Requesting SafeSeaNet data

A variety of institutes and organisations have an interest in obtaining bulk data, usually comprising of historical data sets of particular types of data over given time periods.

What data are available

SafeSeaNet information includes Automatic Identification System (AIS) data as well as additional ship and voyage information, including: port notifications (e.g. pre-arrival, arrival and departure times), Hazmat notifications (carriage of dangerous and polluting goods), ship notifications (additional information sent in mandatory reporting areas), and incident reports (e.g. pollution reports).

How to apply

The interested party should send a letter to the Commission – DG MOVE (see Annex for contact details), indicating the following information:

- Name of requesting party and contact details;
- The type of organisation;
- What the data is needed for;
- How the data will be used;
- Over what time period the data is being requested.

Conditions for obtaining access to or receiving the data

The request will then be forwarded by DG MOVE to EMSA. Once assessed by the Commission and EMSA, the request will be brought to the SafeSeaNet High Level Steering Group to decide whether or not to provide the data.

Conditions will be defined in the form of a License Agreement signed between EMSA and the requestor.

What happens once a request has been approved

Once both parties have signed the Licence Agreement, data will be provided to the requestor.

EMSA will then determine how to provide data to the requestor, either through a file or a specific technical interface.

Annex – Contact details

SSN NCAs:

Member State	NCAs	Contact details
Austria	Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology Supreme Shipping Authority	Dept.W1, Radetzkystrasse2, A-1030 Wien Austria
Belgium	Agency for Maritime Services and Coast	Maritiem Plein 3, (voorheen Kantinestraat 3) 8400 Oostende, Belgium
Bulgaria	Bulgarian Maritime Administration	9, Djakon Ignatij str, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria
Croatia	Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure	Prisavlje 14, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Cyprus	Department of Merchant Shipping	P.O. Box 56193, 3305 Limassol, Cyprus
Czech Republic	Ministry of Transport	Nábřeží L. Svobody 12/1222, 110 15 Prague 1 Czech Republic
Denmark	Admiral Danish Fleet Headquarters	P.O. Box 1483, 8220 Brabrand, Denmark
Estonia	Estonian Maritime Administration	Valge 4, 11413 Tallinn, Estonia
Finland	Finnish Transport Safety Agency	Opastinsilta 12 A, P.O. Box 33, 00520, Helsinki Finland
France	Ministère de l'Ecologie, de l'Energie, du Développement Durable et de la Mer - DGITM-DAM-SM1	La Grande Arche- Paroi Sud, 92055 La Défense Cedex, France
Germany	Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development	Robert-Schuman-Platz 1, 53175 Bonn, Germany
Greece	Hellenic Republic/Ministry of Shipping, Maritime Affairs and the Aegean - Hellenic Coast Guard Headquarters Vessel Traffic Monitoring Directorate	Akti Vasiliadi Gate E1, 18510 Piraeus, Greece
Hungary	National Transport Authority Road, Railway and Shipping Office	Teréz Av. 62,1066 Budapest, Hungary
Iceland	Icelandic Transport Authority	200 Kópavogur, Vesturvör 2, Iceland
Ireland	Department of Transport - Marine Survey Office	Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, Ireland
Italy	Italian Coast Guard	Headquarters of the Italian Coast Guard - 7th Department - 1st Office, Viale dell'Arte 16 00144 Rome, Italy
Latvia	Latvian Coastguard Service	Meldru 5a, 1015 Riga, Latvia
Lithuania	Lithuanian Maritime Safety Administration	J. Janonio Str. 24, 92251 Klaipeda, Lithuania
Luxembourg	Commissariat Aux Affaires Maritimes	19-21 Boulevard Royal, L-2449, Luxembourg
Malta	Transport Malta, Ports & Yachting Directorate	Maritime Transport Centre, Marsa MRS 1917 Malta
Netherlands	Rijkswaterstaat - Vessel Traffic Management Center	Postbus 556, 3000 AN Rotterdam, Netherlands
Norway	Norwegian Coastal Administration	Postboks 1502, 6025 Ålesund, Norway
Poland	Gdynia Maritime Office	10, Chrzanowskiego Str., 81338 Gdynia Poland
Portugal	Direccao Geral de DGRM - Recursos Naturais, Seguranca e Servicos Maritimos	Centro de Controlo de Tráfego Marítimo Av. Bonneville Franco, s/n, edifício VTS 2770-058 Paço de Arcos, Portugal
Romania	Romanian Naval Authority	Incinta Port Nr.1, 900900 Constanta, Romania
Slovak Republic	Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications - Maritime Office	Namestie slobody 6, 810 05 Bratislava Slovak Republic
Slovenia	Slovenian Maritime Administration	Ukmarjev trg 2, 6000 Koper, Slovenia

Member State	NCA's	Contact details
Spain	Direccion General de la Marina Mercante	Ruiz de Alarcon, 28071 Madrid, Spain
Sweden	Swedish Maritime Administration	Östra Promenaden 7,60178 Norrköping,Sweden
United Kingdom	Maritime Coastguard Agency	Bay 2/16 Spring Place, 105 Commercial Road Southampton, 15 1EG, United Kingdom

EMSA:

Contact details	
European Maritime Safety Agency	Unit C.2 Vessel Traffic and Reporting Services Praça Europa, 1249-206, Lisbon Portugal Tel: +351 21 1209 415 Fax: +351 21 1209 217 e-mail: ssn2linehelpdesk[a]emsa.europa.eu

DG-MOVE:

Contact details	
European Commission Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG-MOVE)	Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport Unit D2 Maritime Safety Rue de Mot, 28 B-1049, Brussels Belgium Email: MOVE-MARITIME-TRANSPORT-AND-SAFETY[a]ec.europa.eu