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SAFESEANET OPERATIONAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS

SSN LOCODEs Guidelines

Submitted by EMSA

Summary	This document presents the revised version of the LOCODEs Guidelines (v1.1) for approval. It also shows the results of EMSA's assessment relating to an automatic interface for the exchange of LOCODEs.
Action to be taken	As per paragraph 4
Related documents	a. Directive 2002/59/EC as amended, Annex III b. SSN 17 workshop report – Action point 13 c. SSN 18 workshop report – Action point 5 d. SSN 18/3/6 – LOCODEs Guidelines

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At SSN WS17, it was agreed that the Documentation Correspondence Group (DCG) would draft guidelines for LOCODEs management at SSN level and include them in the SSN Operational Procedures document (SSN 17, action 13).

The SSN LOCODEs Guidelines were approved at SSN 18.

After implementation, specific issues were noted which led to the requirement for amendments to the LOCODEs guidelines (see paragraph 2).

Furthermore, as requested at SSN 18 (action point 5), an assessment of the feasibility of developing an automatic interface for the exchange of LOCODEs between the national central SSN systems is shown in paragraph 3.

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2. CHANGES IN THE SSN LOCODES GUIDELINES

Based on the experience gained since SSN 18, and the issues discovered, the following changes are proposed:

a. The inclusion of the non-EU LOCODEs that have been confirmed by reliable sources as having a port function under SSN Specific LOCODEs (pages 6 and 7). The main advantage of this change is that Member States (MSs) will be able to send notifications for non-EU LOCODEs (which have been confirmed as ports) without receiving "Warning messages" in SSN_Receipt.

b. The updates to the procedure for the upload of the UNECE list into the SSN system (page 8) are as follows:

- UNECE recently activated function 7 for LOCODEs which correspond to fixed transport functions (e.g. oil platforms). Since, in many cases, these locations are used to declare Next or Last Port, the upload of these LOCODEs should reduce the number of notifications with unknown port (ZZUKN). Those already existing as SSN Specific will then be replaced by UNECE.
- The last upload of the UNECE list to SSN (November 2012) led to the realisation that LOCODEs with status RQ (still under consideration) should remain in the SSN system, because when they are removed, a large number of messages are rejected. After several request from MSs (BE, CY, EE, IE, IS and PL), EMSA re-loaded these LOCODEs in order to solve the problem.
- Before uploading a new list, the EMSA MSS will provide to MSs, at least one week in advance, the list of UNECE LOCODEs which are going to be added to, or removed from, the SSN system. This will allow MSs to update their own databases and inform ship agents of the changes.

c. The inclusion of a sentence to inform MSs of the impact of the deletion of LOCODEs on the UNECE list (page 10).

   SSN NCAs are requested not to remove UNECE LOCODEs unless strictly necessary. The reason is that other MSs may use them, and not notice the change in due time, and as a result, all of their notifications containing these LOCODEs will be rejected. For example, the deactivation of the LOCODE for Paldiski (EEPLA) caused the rejection of 604 notifications in December 2012. The following MSs were affected: DK, FI, DE, NL, PL and SE.

3. AUTOMATIC EXCHANGE OF LOCODES

3.1 Background

For better synchronisation of the LOCODE registries used by EMSA applications (e.g. THETIS), EMSA plans to introduce, via web services, the SSN LOCODE registry as a "base" (reference) registry. The principles are as follows:

a. Enhancement of the tools currently integrated in the web console of SSN in order to allow for the management of the registry content (creation/update/activation-deactivation of LOCODEs) by the MSS, and also by application administrators at EMSA and MS.

b. The implementation of the following web-based services:

- Request/Receive Location Details via XML or encoded zip archive (for a single location or a list of locations).
- Announcement of location details changes ("pushing" the announcement service to subscribers).
- Request/receive logs for changes to specific records in the base registry.

c. Maintenance of the following information in the base registry (if available):

- Country and Location code for a location.
- Location Name reported to UNECE.
- Location Name without diacritics.
- National Location Names.
- Alternative Location Names (up to 4).
- Port facilities associated with port locations (UNECE Subsidiary Location code if available, GISIS code if available, description).

3.2 EMSA analysis and proposal

It is technically feasible to display the LOCODE registry of SSN in NCA applications via XML/SOAP. In this respect, EMSA plans to set up an internal pilot project to test the web services mentioned above plus a "location notification" service that would allow the reporting of all updates to the base registry (i.e. new LOCODEs created or changes in the data maintained for a location) in an MS, and also the status of a LOCODE in the MS location registry (i.e. active/inactive).

The detailed data schema and business rules for the data exchange will have to be defined. Depending on their specific needs, MSs may connect to the registry as:

- subscribers to the location announcement (push) service;
- data requestors, and/or;
- data providers.

EMSA will inform the SSN group about the results of the EMSA pilot project.

4. ACTION REQUIRED

Member States are invited to:

- provide feedback and approve the SSN LOCODEs Guidelines, and;.
- note the information on the assessment of the feasibility of an automatic interface for the exchange of LOCODEs.

Attachments:

Annex: SafeSeaNet LOCODEs Guidelines v1.1