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Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Inland Water Transport

Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation

Forty-first session

Geneva, 20–22 June 2012

Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda

Establishment of common principles and technical requirements for pan-European river information services (RIS)

Proposal on UNECE recommendations on Maritime Mobile Service Identifiers

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction and mandate

1. The Working Party, at its thirty-ninth session, took note of a proposal by the Russian Federation to elaborate special recommendations on Maritime Mobile Service Identifiers (MMSI) and of the comments submitted by the delegations. The Working Party noted that no delegations had submitted objections to this proposal and invited the Russian Federation to submit the draft text of the recommendation (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/78, para. 37).
2. The Working Party may wish to consider this proposal and decide as appropriate.

II. Proposal by the Russian Federation on UNECE recommendations on MMSI for inland navigation vessels

3. The need to regulate the assignment of MMSI to inland navigation vessels has arisen from the general introduction at European level of vessel tracking and tracing systems using Automatic Identification System (AIS) technology. MMSI is mandatory for shipborne and shore-based AIS equipment. In accordance with Section VI, Article 19 of the Radio Regulations (Volume 1, 2008), the *radio stations of maritime vessels are assigned MMSI on construction*. Inland navigation vessels do not, as a rule, have MMSI.

4. The need to regulate the assignment of MMSI to inland navigation vessels is already reflected in the following European standards on River Information Services (RIS) and radio communication on inland waterways:

(a) The International Standard for Tracking and Tracing on Inland Waterways (VTT) (SC.3 Resolution No. 63, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/176);

(b) Commission Regulation (EC) No. 415/2007 of 13 March 2007 concerning the Technical Specifications for Vessel Tracking and Tracing Systems;

(c) The Regional Arrangement concerning the Radiotelephone Service on Inland Waterways (Basel, 6 April 2000, version of 18 September 2007).

5. Proposal on regulating the assignment of MMSI:

(a) Find it necessary and recommend that competent Administrations extend the provisions of Section VI, Article 19 of the Radio Regulations (Volume 1, 2008) concerning the Maritime Mobile Service Identifier to inland navigation vessels;

(b) The MMSI number should be assigned by the competent Administration on installation of a mobile AIS station (transponder) on an inland navigation vessel in line with the procedure laid out in Section VI, Article 19 of the Radio Regulations (2008 version) and associated national standards;

(c) Once the AIS device has been installed on board an inland navigation vessel, the MMSI should be added to the vessel's papers¹ giving details of its radio and navigation equipment;

(d) Depending on the type of vessel, the MMSI may be assigned to the *vessel* or to its *radio installation* (vessel's AIS station);

(e) Make the following amendments to Chapter 2 of resolution 61, revision 1, Recommendations on harmonized Europe-wide technical requirements for inland navigation vessels:

(i) Add to paragraph 2-7.3.1 the following subparagraph 15:

“15. MMSI (Maritime Mobile Service Identifier) number”

(ii) In paragraph 2-7.3.2, delete subparagraph 8 and renumber subparagraphs 9 and 10.

¹ Under recommendation 2 of the Regional Arrangement concerning the Radiotelephone Service on Inland Waterways (Basel, 6 April 2000), inland navigation vessels must have a Ship Station Licence, in line with Recommendation No. 7 of the Radio Regulations, which has a field for inclusion of the MMSI number.