Ship's callsign masking scheme as implemented by Australia per Res. 27 (EC-LIX)

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) has introduced on a trial basis, and on a limited number of ships, a masking scheme whereby the official ITU callsign is replaced by an alternative and unique callsign. The name given by SOT to this form of masking scheme is MASK.

The Australian MASK broadly follows ITU callsign practices, but explicitly uses unallocated and reserved 'not for future use' callsigns from the ITU Table of Callsigns (http://life.itu.int/radioclub/rr/ap42.htm).

The format of the Australian MASK is CNCNNNN, where C = character (A - Z) and N = number (0 - 9, or 2 - 9 for N in the second position in the MASK in accordance with ITU directives).

The two numeric components of the MASK (N and NNNN) are automatically generated for every ship recruited by Bureau (regardless of whether the ship participates in the MASK trial or not), and is derived from the unique database ID number assigned to the ship.

The callsign series approved for use by the Bureau by the SOT Task Team on Callsign Masking and Encoding comprises: B2M0000 - B2M9999 through to B9M0000 - B9M9999.

In accordance with the procedures developed by the Task Team, specifically to assist with real-time quality monitoring and long-term data archival, Australia provides JCOMMOPS with a quarterly list linking the official ITU callsign (REAL) with MASK, or immediately whenever a change is made to the list of MASK ships.

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