

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

Interim callsign making of FM-13 SHIP reports provided

Environment Canada's Meteorological Service of Canada

In accordance with World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Resolution 7 (EC-LVIII) and 7.1/1 (EC-LIX), Environment Canada (EC) implemented callsign making of FM-13 SHIP reports at 13:00 UTC 8 May 2012 in order to protect the identity of EC's Automated Volunteer Ship (AVOS) fleet. The masking scheme implemented follows the Ship Observing Team (SOT) SHIP method of concealing the TRUE vessel callsign in the FM-13 messages distributed to the Global Telecommunication System (GTS).

1. Callsign masking

Incoming FM-13 SHIP format messages from Environment Canada AVOS vessels received via Iridium short-burst-data transmission will have the TRUE ITU callsign replaced with the generic SHIP callsign prior to dissemination to the Global Telecommunication System (GTS) in order to protect the security and anonymity of AVOS equipped ships. This will be applied to all ships in the Canadian AVOS fleet. Callsign masking is being implemented on an interim basis until it can be replaced with proposed ENCODE scheme which will be implemented together with BUFR message formats.

2. Provision of non-masked data

For the purposes of real-time monitoring and climate analysis by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and monitoring centres, Environment Canada will provide real-time delivery and archive mode FM-13 messages with TRUE callsign via alternative mechanisms to GTS. Environment Canada will require assurances that the messages with TRUE callsign are not disseminated publicly. Arrangements are already in place to provide the TRUE callsign FM-13 messages to UK MetService as well as the US National Weather Service.