

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

The trial callsign masking of FM-13 SHIP reports operated by the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA)

In accordance with World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Resolution 7 (EC-LVIII) and 7.7/1 (EC-LIX), the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) started implementing trial callsign masking of FM-13 SHIP reports at 00:00 UTC on 12 December 2007 in order to protect the identity of Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) fleets and assist in resolving real-time monitoring and climate analysis problems.

1. Callsign masking

Upon request from the administrators of reporting ships such as ship owners and masters, JMA replaces callsigns included in incoming SHIP reports via the Inmarsat Yamaguchi Land Earth Station with a generic *SHIP* callsign before distribution on the Global Telecommunication System in order to ensure the security of such ships. This trial callsign masking started from 12 December 2007 along with the service of providing the original SHIP reports (referred to below as *Non-masked Data*) explained in the next section.

Regarding the registration of VOS fleets, VOS focal points are kindly requested to contact the relevant administrators to confirm whether trial callsign masking is required for their respective fleets. Those requesting the service are requested to fill out the registration form attached to the letter from JMA dated 27 November 2007 reference: JMA07/A3/222 and send it to JMA.

2. Provision of Non-masked Data

For the purpose of real-time monitoring and climate analysis by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and monitoring centers, JMA provides Non-masked Data with real callsigns to registered users (referred to below as *Users*) only. This information has been available through JMA's Ship Data Website (referred to below as *the Website*), secured with ID and password authentication, since 12 December 2007.

Use of the Website is limited to NMHSs (including the CBS Lead Centre for the Quality Monitoring of Marine Data), the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) and the International Comprehensive Ocean-Atmosphere Data Set (ICOADS) project. Users must comply with the following terms and conditions for accessing the Website:

- a. Users shall not provide or expose Non-masked Data obtained via the Website or the IDs / passwords used to access the Website to any third party.
- b. If JMA or Users detect or are informed of the leakage of Non-masked Data or IDs / passwords, Users shall cooperate with JMA to investigate the causes of the leakage.
- c. JMA reserves the right to revoke IDs / passwords if either of the above items (a or b) is not observed.

Organizations interested in obtaining Non-masked Data are kindly requested to read the terms and conditions above and to complete the form attached to the letter JMA07/A3/222 and send it to JMA.
