

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

### The trial callsign masking of FM-13 SHIP reports operated by the United States' National Weather Service (NWS)

In accordance with World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Resolution 7 (EC-LVIII) and 27 (EC-LIX), the National Weather Service (NWS) 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, NWS replaces callsigns included in incoming SHIP reports via the Inmarsat Southbury or Santa Paula 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. This masking is completed in conjunction with the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) to better expand their communication coverage area.

Ships and Shipping companies who request masking support shall provide the NWS with a completed Callsign Masking Registration/Change Form. This form also designates the public release periodicity level. With coordination from JMA, the standardized releasing periodicity is either fully public releasable after 90 days or never to be released publically. This controlled data is shared only with NWS's Ocean Prediction Center (OPC) for inclusion into the real-time models, the U.S. VOS program for management, and JMA for release control of Non-masked data.

Callsigns have also been completely removed from all OPC analysis charts released to the public regardless of their enrollment in the masking scheme. OPC is now able to allow select call sign re-appear back on the analyses if requested by the ship and or shipping company. This "display" list is being maintained by the U.S. VOS program.

#### 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, the U.S. and Japan VOS programs have agreed that JMA will be the focal point location to provide Non-masked Data with real callsigns to registered users as described in Annex II.

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