

Abstract

Following an investigation, using questionnaires to both seafarers and (M)RCCs, we can conclude that the use and utility of ship reporting systems has not been affected by the introduction of the LRIT system. Both systems are so different that it is currently not possible for LRIT to replace the current ship reporting systems. The decisive difference can be found in the amount of information reported.

However, a few comments should be made.

Due to the diversity in reporting systems, a lot of different reports are to be send by seafarers. This was pointed out by many as problematic. In addition, it appears that (M)RCCs make little use of ship reporting systems or LRIT to conduct SAR operations. For example, they prefer the use of AIS.

This study shows that while there is no impact of the LRIT system on ship reporting systems, no progress has been made either. There is a need to reduce the amount of reports sent by seafarers, to increase the efficiency and to implement a single uniform reporting system. This reduces the workload of seafarers and increases the efficiency for (M)RCCs to conduct SAR operations.