



Circ. No. 004 / FSI 001

May 30, 2013

**TO: Recognized Organizations, Ship Owners, Operators, Masters and Officers**

**SUBJECT: Radio Message Accounting Procedures and Accounting Authorities**

**Guidance for Recognized Organizations,  
Ship Owners, Operators, Masters and Officers**

**PURPOSE:**

Present notice defines the radio message accounting procedures required by Georgian Maritime Regulations and lists the Accounting Authorities approved by the Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia (MTA).

**GENERAL:**

Maritime Radio Traffic Accounting came into existence to reduce the number and variety of bills and settlements passing between operators and shipowners, which then needed extensive administrative effort to process e.g. identify calls, convert call charges to and from various currencies, reconcile these charges, etc.

In accordance with the International Telecommunications Union (hereinafter referred as ITU) radio regulations, it is necessary for each ship station to have an internationally recognized accounting authority. All maritime communications traffic must be prefixed with the officially recognized Accounting Authority Identification Code (known as the AAIC) for the accounting authority responsible for the settlement of respective radio accounts.

An Accounting Authority acts as a billing intermediary between maritime mobile station and service providers, and shall be responsible for:

- i) Obtaining payment of the collection charges for maritime mobile communications from the maritime mobile station
- ii) Guaranteeing payment of the collection charges to the service providers for traffic originated by the maritime mobile station, ensuring that these payments are made in accordance with the ITU Regulations and Recommendation ITU-D.90.

iii) Maintaining up-to-date and accurate records of the maritime mobile stations for which it has responsibility. Any change in status, ownership, termination or commencement of contract must be notified immediately to interested and regularly used service providers and to the Administration that licensed the maritime mobile station. Where changes have occurred, a new and updated list of maritime mobile stations should be issued by the Accounting Authority at least every 90 days to interested and regularly used service providers and to the Administration who licensed the maritime mobile station, with changes to the previously issued information clearly indicated. Alternatively, a "no change" notification may be issued. The updated information should consist of:

- satellite identity number/ ships call sign;
- ship/ mobile name;
- commencement date;
- termination date;
- previous Agent or new Agent;
- Ship owner

iv) Ensuring that its Accounting Authority Identification Code (AAIC) is known by all Administrations recognizing it and all maritime mobile stations for which it is responsible.

v) Notifying service providers and the Administration which has licensed the maritime mobile station concerned, as soon as it has been established that it is unable to collect payment from that maritime mobile station. This information will enable the service providers to cease accepting calls from that maritime mobile station in order to prevent the uncollectible debt from further increasing.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

**1.0** ITU Convention currently in force provides for Accounting Authorities to settle maritime radio communication accounts for ships licensed by the Administrator.

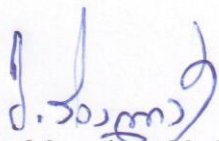
**2.0** Due to the many problems occurring in international radio maritime accounting, no ship is entitled to be registered or to maintain registration under the Georgian Flag unless the owner shall have entered into a valid contract with an authorized radio service company pursuant to the terms of which the latter assumes the accounting obligation and may assume responsibility for obtaining the vessel's Ship Radio Station License.

**3.0** It is mandatory that all international maritime radio traffic charges for radio communications from ship to shore, both terrestrial and satellite, shall be settled by the approved Accounting Authority which has the legal contract with the owner of the vessel.

**4.0** The Accounting Authority for the vessel has assumed full responsibility for the payment of the radio communication charges and has further given a guaranty to the Georgian Government that no charges will accrue to the account of the Georgia-Government and, therefore, ensures that the guaranty remains fully effective. It is imperative that all radio traffic charges be sent to the Accounting Authority only and not to any third party.

**5.0** ITU-T Recommendation D.90 limits the number of accounting authorities based in other countries that the Administrator may recognize to 25. The radio service companies approved by the Administrator are listed in Annex to this Marine Notice.

6.0 Whenever Vessel approaches the administration in order to acquire Georgian Flag, MTA will issue the letter of recognition of the vessels's particular Accounting Authority.



Capt. Mamuka Akhaladze  
Agency Director