

August, 2012

AIS: New requirements to fishing ships of 15 metres and above

Please be advised that by EU directive 2009/17/EF regarding changes to directive 2002/59/EF all fishing ships of 15 meters length and above will be required to be equipped by automatic identification system (AIS), Class A. The directive has been put into effect to improve the navigation and anti collision mechanisms on board small fishing vessels.

The mentioned directive 2002/59/EF already requires **all** cargo ships of **500** GRT and above and cargo ships of **300** GRT and above operating in **international waters** to carry this equipment. There are no changes to this requirement.

Due to the fact that our neighbouring countries are either members of EU or EEA, the above directive is being put into effect as from 2012 and made applicable to all fishing vessels operating their national waters. For this reason the directive will become applicable in vast areas surrounding Faroese waters.

The Faroese regulation is in the process of being amended in order to ensure compliance for fishing ships operating in international waters and visiting foreign ports. In this situation prior to the new regulation coming into effect, Sjóvinnustýrið has decided to give the following recommendations:

- Faroese fishing vessels operating in foreign waters and visiting in foreign ports should have the equipment installed in order to avoid problems with foreign authorities, e.g. during Port State Controls. It must be recognized that missing equipment will cause problems during PSC as soon as the requirement has become effective for the ship type in question.
- Below you find the rate of implementation put into effect by the directive :
 - Fishing ships of 24 metres and above: 31st May 2012
 - Fishing ships of 18 – 24 metres: 31st May 2013
 - Fishing ships of 15 – 18 metres: 31st May 2014
 - New Fishing ships: From delivery

We will revert with further notice when the Faroese requirement is being put into effect.

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