



Direção-Geral de Recursos Naturais,
Segurança e Serviços Marítimos

Direção de Serviços de Administração Marítima

Avenida Brasília 1449-030 LISBOA, PORTUGAL
Telefone: 21 3035700 - Fax: 21 3035702

Circular N.º 40

Approved: 06-01-2017

Pages: 6

Subject:	Authorization and/or Registration of Accounting Authorities (AA) for Portuguese Flagged Vessels
To:	Shipowners, Operators, Companies, Masters of Portuguese Flagged ships, Recognized Organizations, Maritime Radio Service Providers

References: Decree-Law n.º 73/2007 of 27 March, which amends and republishes Decree-Law n.º190/98 of 10 July, establishes, among others, the conditions for licensing on board Portuguese Flagged vessels stations in the maritime mobile and maritime mobile satellite service. ITU Radio Regulation¹ (RR). Recommendation ITU-T² D.90 on “Charging and Accounting in International Telecommunication Services”. CEPT/ECTRA³ Recommendation ECTRA/REC(97)02 on “Registration, Recognition and Supervision of Maritime Accounting Authorities”

1. OBJECTIVE

This Circular explains the procedures adopted by the Portuguese Maritime Administration, DGRM, from this point and onwards the **Administration**, for authorization and registration of Accounting Authorities (AA) giving also a link to DGRM’s webpage where these entities are posted. It gives also information about the fees associated with the authorization/registration process.

¹ Radio Regulations (RR), the ITU Radio Regulations, including appendixes, resolutions and recommendations incorporated by reference, in its actual text.

² ITU-T, the Telecommunication Standardization Sector, a permanent body of the International Telecommunications Union, in Geneva, Switzerland.

³ CEPT/ECTRA - CEPT, the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations; ECTRA, European Committee for Telecommunications Regulatory Affairs, merged with ERC (European Radiocommunications Committee) in September 2001 resulting in ECC-Electronic Communications Committee.

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2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Accounting Authorities (AA) act as a billing intermediary between the maritime mobile service stations and the maritime mobile service providers.

2.2 ITU's Radio Regulations (RR) when referring to charging and accounting for maritime radiocommunications (RR article 58) states that all provisions of the International Telecommunications Regulations shall apply, taking into account ITU-T Recommendations.

2.3 ITU-T Recommendation D.90 limits the number of Accounting Authorities based in other countries the Administration may authorize up to 25. The Accounting Authorities authorized/registered by the Portuguese Maritime Administration (DGRM) are published in DGRM's webpage, and updated whenever necessary, in [Entidades Responsáveis pelo Pagamento das Contas Rádio - AAIC](#). ITU-T Recommendation D.90 also sets out the principles for charging, billing, international accounting and settlement for the maritime mobile service. As such, AAs must guarantee to operate in accordance with the relevant ITU Regulations and Recommendations.

2.4 CEPT/ECTRA Recommendation on registration, recognition and supervision of maritime accounting authorities, ECTRA/REC(97)02, defines a common minimum set of principles which should be underlined to registry, recognition and supervision.

3. REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Due to the many problems occurring in international radio maritime accounting, ships flying the Portuguese Flag and entitled to establish communications with coast stations or coast earth stations worldwide shall have a valid contract with a radio service company pursuant the latter has a valid Accounting Authority Identification Code (AAIC or CIAC) for ship stations authorized/registered by the Administration (*nr.º 3 article 33º DL nr.º 73/2007*).

3.2 It is mandatory that all international maritime radio traffic charges for radiocommunications from ship to shore, both terrestrial and satellite, shall be settled by the authorized/registered Accounting Authority which has the legal contract with the company or the owner of the vessel.

4. Authorization and Registration of Accounting Authorities

4.1 Authorization of AAs

4.1.1 The Administration may, if it considers appropriate and under the scope of the objective criteria set for the authorization and registration, authorize AAs registered in other countries to account for Portuguese Flagged Vessels. ITU will be notified of all these authorizations by ANACOM⁴, upon DGRM's request.

4.1.2 As per ITU-T Recommendation D.90 the Administration updates the information of two lists of authorized AAs reporting this update to ANACOM, who notifies ITU:

4.1.2.1 **List a**, details those AAs authorized to account for maritime mobile stations licensed by the Administration irrespective of whether or not the AA is based in Portugal;

4.1.2.2 **List b**, details all the AAs based in Portugal.

4.2 Registration of AAs

4.2.1 The Administration (DGRM) is responsible for the registration of all AAs based within its territory and for the allocation to each one of them a unique identification code (AAIC or CIAC), being ANACOM responsible for the notification to ITU after DGRM's request. The AAIC consists of two country code letters followed by a two digit numeric code which identifies the particular AA. For Portugal, the two letter code is **PO**, as per ITU-T Recommendation F.32, *Telegram Destination Indicators*. As an example, an AAIC format for Portugal is **POxx**, where xx is a number between 01 and 99. The AAIC formats for entities settled in Madeira or Azores Autonomic Regions will be allocated according to both Recommendations ITU-T F.32 and D.90 (*nr.º 2 article 33º DL nr.º 73/2007*).

4.3 Maximum number of AAs

As mentioned in 2.3 the maximum number of AAs should not exceed 25, and this is the number this Administration imposes as a limit for authorized AAs.

⁴ ANACOM, the National Authority for Communications (*Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações*)

5. Application for authorization and/or registration

5.1 All applicants willing to:

5.1.1 Be authorized to act as an AA for Portuguese Flagged vessels; or

5.1.2 Be registered as an AA within the Administration, should complete the application form [[Requerimento de Serviços](#)] which may be downloaded from DGRM webpage, and send it back to the contact email highlighted in the form. Additionally, the information detailed in Form nr.1 associated to this Circular should also be completed and sent together with the application form.

5.2 There is a one-time non-refundable processing fee for all applications mentioned in 5.1 and additionally a specific fee for either authorization or registration. Both national legislation and the [current rates](#) may be downloaded from DGRM's web page.

5.3 The eligibility of AAs to act as Portuguese flagged vessels accounting for either authorized and/or registered, depends on:

5.3.1 The applicant be familiar with and accept the provisions of ITU-T Recommendation D.90, CEPT/ECTRA Recommendation ECTRA/REC(97)02 and have not violated any ITU Regulations or Recommendations in the past;

5.3.2 The applicant take full financial and legal responsibility for settling all maritime radio accounts due to the maritime mobile radio stations of Portuguese flagged vessels they represent;

5.3.3 The applicant is a legal entity;

5.3.4 The applicant is already registered in its Administration (National Telecommunications Regulator Bureau), has a unique AAIC (in case the entity is based in Portugal the AAIC has to be allocated by the Administration - DGRM), and is also posted in the ITU MARS AA data base.

5.3.5 The applicant acceptance of the following conditions:

5.3.5.1 Represent a minimum of 5 Portuguese flagged vessels;

5.3.5.2 Reach this minimum number of vessels within one year after the interim authorization;

5.3.5.3 Keep this average number in every 6 (six) month control period.

5.4 Both the authorized and/or the registered AA shall, in case of any changes of the information provided on and with the application form, immediately notify the Administration.

5.5 Approval/Refusal of Authorization and/or Registration

5.5.1 Approval of authorization and/or registration:

5.5.1.1 The criteria defined under 4.3 and 5.3 are taken into account before granting approval for authorization and/or registration;

5.5.1.2 The approval granted by the Administration shall be in a written form, based on the conditions the applicant will abide to the requirements it has signed upon when submitting the applications form as per 5.1.2;

5.5.1.3 The Administration shall add the authorized and/or registered AA to the lists defined in 4.1.2, and make it also public in its webpage, as [Entidades Responsáveis pelo Pagamento das Contas Rádio - AAIC](#)

5.5.2 Refusal of authorization and/or registration

Where the Administration refuses an application based on the objective criteria set out for the authorization and/or registration of AAs, the applicant shall be advised of the refusal in writing.

5.6 Update of ITU List V - Ship Stations

In order to update ITU List V (ship stations)⁵ and whenever requested by the Administration, the authorized or recognized AA should send the list of all ship radio stations of Portuguese flagged vessels, notifying the Administration within a month in case of any changes of the aforesaid list.

5.7 Notification of Termination or Revocation of the Authorization

5.7.1 If the authorized and/or registered AA wishes to terminate either the provision for its services to Portuguese flagged vessels or its registration as an AA with the Administration, the following should be performed:

5.7.1.1 Notify the Administration (DGRM) in writing one (1) month in advance;

5.7.1.2 Notify the Portuguese flagged vessels currently using its service, giving them time to seek the services of another AA.

⁵ ITU List V - List of Ship Stations and Maritime Mobile Service Identity Assignments.

5.7.2 The Administration may revoke the authorization of an AA, or cancel its registration whenever:

5.7.2.1 The AA has been authorized and/or recognized on the basis of a falsified application;

5.7.2.2 The AA has ceased its commercial activities;

5.7.2.3 The AA fails to meet the conditions stated in 5.3.5.

5.7.3 In case of any revocation, the administration shall provide written notice to the AA concerned stating the reasons for the revocation. Upon the revocation the Administration shall also remove the name of the AA from the lists mentioned in 4.1.2 notifying ANACOM of the fact to ITU notification.

Lisbon, 6 January 2017

The Director of the Maritime Administration Services Directorate

For further information please contact:

Direção Geral de Recursos Naturais, Segurança e Serviços Marítimos

Avenida Brasília 1449 - 030 LISBOA, PORTUGAL

Tel: (+351) 213 035 700

Fax: (+351) 213 035 702

Linha Azul: (+351) 21 3035703

www.dgrm.mm.gov.pt

E-mail: dsam.secretariado@dgrm.mm.gov.pt