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23 May 2012

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS NO. 13 OF 2012

To: Owners and Operators of Licensed Harbour Craft in Gibraltar

FITTING OF AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AIS) EQUIPMENT ON LICENSED HARBOUR CRAFT

The Gibraltar Port Authority (GPA) would like to remind owners and operators of licensed harbour craft that with effect from 1st October 2012 all commercial vessels registered with the GPA will be required to be fitted with Automatic Identification System (AIS) equipment (under the authority of Section 8.(1) of the Port Operations (Registration and Licensing) Act 2005, as amended), but excluding those vessels restricted to operations within sheltered waters defined as 'Area A'.

Vessels are identified through a 'transponder' fitted as part of the AIS equipment which transmits the name, callsign, MMSI number, speed, course, position, vessel type and dimensions and these are displayed on the GPA's Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) system.

This will assist the VTS Operators in monitoring and co-ordinating the movements of traffic within the VTS area to improve both the safety of navigation and the efficiency of the Port. The fitting of AIS will also benefit harbour craft to identify the position of client vessels and provide them with details of movements.

The AIS equipment required to be fitted must be either 'Class A' or 'Class B' type and must be capable of transmitting and receiving AIS signals. Please note that AIS equipment which can only receive is not acceptable and once fitted the AIS equipment and transponder must always be operational on a vessel and switched on in order to locate it at any time.

Confirmation of compliance with this requirement will be included in the annual SSC Inspection by the Gibraltar Maritime Administration (GMA).

Should you have any queries on this matter, guidance and assistance can be provided by local marine navigation equipment suppliers in Gibraltar or from the GPA, the GMA or the Gibraltar Maritime Authority (GRA).



**ROY STANBROOK
CEO AND CAPTAIN OF THE PORT**

