

**Procedures for requesting EMSA data
from maritime applications**

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Objective

The purpose of this document is to indicate the different procedures which have been established by EMSA to manage external requests for data from the EMSA applications, including Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT), SafeSeaNet, Earth Observation and Satellite AIS data.

These requests are made by EU Member State national government authorities, EU institutions and bodies, and by projects or programmes established by these parties and working on issues of public interest.

For each specific data type, a different procedure is applied. The applicable procedures are described in this document, which provides the following information:

- What data are available.
- How to apply.
- Conditions for obtaining access to or receiving the data.
- What happens once a request has been approved.

Requesting Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) data

The procedure for external requests for LRIT data was agreed with EU LRIT CDC Participating Countries at the LRIT National Competent Authorities (NCAs) meeting. According to EMSA founding regulation, relevant vessel data and positioning can be provided only to competent National Authorities and Union bodies.

What data are available

LRIT is a global ship identification and tracking system based on satellite communication. Under IMO regulations, certain categories of vessels send mandatory position reports every six hours.

LRIT data available at EMSA includes the position data of ships flying flags of the EU LRIT CDC Participating Countries. Data dating back as far as June 2009, when the EU LRIT Data Centre was established, is available. Each position includes the latitude and longitude of the ship, as well as the ship particulars and time stamp indicating when the information was received by the EU LRIT CDC.

How to apply

The interested party should fill in the [form](#)¹ which is available on the EMSA Website under [Requesting access to maritime data](#)², which will be submitted automatically to EMSA.

The form will include the following information:

- Name of requesting party and contact details.
- The type of organisation.
- What the data is needed for.
- How the data will be used.
- Over what time period the data is requested.

This request will then be forwarded by EMSA to all EU LRIT CDC Participating Countries LRIT NCAs to request permission to use their data. Each EU LRIT CDC Participating Countries will then respond, indicating whether they agree for their ships' LRIT data to be given to the requesting party, and whether there are any other conditions. All responses will be then summarised in a table.

Conditions for obtaining access to or receiving the data

The following are the conditions for receiving the LRIT data from EMSA:

- The LRIT data will be used only for the purpose of the project and limited to internal use by the requestor for any further scientific/statistical analysis.
- The requestor will destroy all LRIT data obtained from EMSA after the project has been completed.
- The requestor will provide EMSA with a written statement that the data destruction has been completed.

¹ <https://emsa.europa.eu/procedure/lrit-form.html>

² <https://emsa.europa.eu/publications/data-request-procedure.html>

- The EU LRIT CDC Participating Countries will have access to the report which is the outcome of the project and may receive a presentation on the outcome at the LRIT NCA meeting.

What happens once a request has been approved

All EU LRIT CDC Participating Countries responses to the request – approval or otherwise, and any conditions that may be attached to use of the data - are summarised in a table which is sent to the requestor. The requestor will ensure that the conditions of each request are respected. For example, some EU LRIT CDC Participating may indicate that they do not want ship details appearing in the final report or that only aggregated data can be included and presented.

EMSA will then determine how best to provide data to the requestor, either through a file or specific technical interface.

Following the completion of the project, the requestor will be required to indicate the outcome of the project or work and, if appropriate, give a presentation at the LRIT NCAs meeting.

Requesting Earth Observation products

EMSA's Earth Observation (EO) services provide products to three main services:

- 1) CleanSeaNet: EMSA's oil spill monitoring service
- 2) Copernicus Maritime Surveillance service
- 3) Support to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) for maritime border monitoring

Data from Earth Observation satellites offer a unique view of our oceans, seas, and coasts. Satellites, and their on-board sensors, provide routine, cost effective, reliable and wide area maritime surveillance. Alternatively satellites can be pointed to a targeted location for monitoring specific operations or to gather data in response to intelligence information. Satellites have access to remote areas, are independent of air traffic control and need no permission to fly. These characteristics are extremely important considering that this information is used for coordination and support of on-scene assets, such as patrol vessels and aircraft.

What data are available

Earth Observation products are provided on request to authorized users according to well defined data access rights and relying on dedicated interfaces (EMSA's SEG or via system to system interfaces). **EMSA's earth observation products cannot be disclosed to the general public due to operational reasons as well as copyright conditions associated to image products.**

In what concerns specific **CleanSeaNet related information**, the following data on detection and verification activities is made public every year, as agreed with Member States:

<https://www.emsa.europa.eu/csn-menu/detections-feedback-data.html>

How to apply:

EMSA's earth observation products cannot be disclosed to the general public due to operational reasons as well as copyright conditions associated to image products.

Conditions for obtaining access to or receiving the data

EMSA's earth observation products cannot be disclosed to the general public due to operational reasons as well as copyright conditions associated to image products.

In what concerns specific **CleanSeaNet related information**, the following data on detection and verification activities is made public every year, as agreed with Member States:

<https://www.emsa.europa.eu/csn-menu/detections-feedback-data.html>

What happens once a request has been approved:

Not applicable.

Requesting Satellite AIS data

What data are available

Satellite AIS data available at EMSA consists of AIS position data transmitted from ships fitted with AIS equipment and which is made available to EMSA by satellite AIS data providers.

A global feed of Satellite AIS data is currently available through a framework contract for Satellite AIS Services and by means of an agreement reached with Member States that enable EMSA to receive SAT-AIS data from their national satellite programmes.

The provision of SAT-AIS data to private entities, commercial companies, researchers, research institutions or universities falls outside the scope of the EMSA SAT-AIS data service and therefore such provision is not possible.

How to apply

The interested party should fill in the generic [form to request historical tracks](#)³ available on an EMSA website. The form includes requestor information and details about the request.

Conditions for obtaining access to or receiving the data

The following are the general conditions for receiving Satellite AIS data from EMSA:

- The scope of the project shall not change during the provision of Satellite AIS data.
- The Satellite AIS data shall not be made available to commercial companies or to third parties.
- The Satellite AIS data will be used only for the purpose of this project and internal use by the requestor for any further scientific/statistical analysis.
- The requestor will delete all Satellite AIS data obtained from EMSA after the project has been completed.
- The requestor will provide EMSA with a written statement that the data deletion has been completed.
- The outcome of the project/work will be presented to EMSA, and EMSA may request a presentation to be given to the European Member States or other parties.

Following an analysis of the request and the relevant project, EMSA will determine if the data can be provided. Depending on the use intended, other conditions may apply and will be included in a Data Access Agreement signed between EMSA and the requestor.

What happens once a request has been approved

Once both parties have signed the Data Access Agreement, data will be provided to the requestor.

EMSA will then determine how to provide data to the requestor, either through a file or a specific technical interface.

³ <https://emsa.europa.eu/procedure/vessel-tracks.html>

Following the project, the requestor will be required to indicate the outcome of the project or work and, if appropriate, give a presentation on its outcome showing how the data was used.

Requesting access to the central SafeSeaNet web interface⁴

The procedure for requesting access to the SafeSeaNet web interface 1) to Member State national government authorities for 'other users' and, 2) for EU institutions and bodies, was agreed at the 3rd SafeSeaNet High Level Steering Group (SSN HLSG) meeting in June 2010 and it has been amended at the 15th HLSG meeting in July 2016. The HLSG agreed to terminate the procedure whereby EMSA validates the requests from other users sent by the SSN National Competent Authorities (NCAs). Instead, the SSN NCA is responsible to grant access to SSN for users which have a maritime function.

Access for 'Other Users' refers to user communities of Member States that fulfil any other responsibility assigned to a Local Competent Authority in accordance with Directive 2002/59/EC as amended (e.g. Customs, Border guards, Defence or any other legitimate user) and that are not covered by the existing roles (i.e. Coastal Station, Port State Control, Waste Authority and Security Authority)

What data are available

SafeSeaNet information includes Terrestrial Automatic Identification System (AIS) data as well as additional ship and voyage information.

Terrestrial AIS is a maritime broadcast system, based on the transmission of very high frequency radio signals. Ships send reports with ship identification, position, and course, as well as information on cargo. The AIS messages of ships transiting along the coastline of Europe are exchanged through the central SafeSeaNet system, hosted at EMSA. If access to the Graphical Interface is requested, the user will receive access to regularly updated real-time data displayed on a nautical chart.

Member States also exchange a range of additional data through SafeSeaNet, including: port notifications (e.g. arrival and departure times), Hazmat notifications (carriage of dangerous and polluting goods), ship notifications (additional information sent in mandatory reporting areas), and incident reports (e.g. pollution reports).

Most of the data is not held at the central SafeSeaNet level and has to be requested from each national Member State system.

How to apply

Requesting access to SafeSeaNet: Member State national government authorities

Requests should be made at national level for access to SafeSeaNet for 'other users' and addressed to the SSN NCA, which has the role of administrator for users at a national level.

Requesting access to SafeSeaNet: EU institutions and bodies

EU institutions and bodies other than EMSA may have, through their founding regulations and other relevant EU legislation and policies, an objective to collect, use and disseminate maritime related data.

EU institutions and bodies may be granted access on the basis of a written request to the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE), which will verify that this is in line with the applicable legal instruments and within the scope of relevant EU policy. The requesting organisation needs to provide a clear justification of the reason why access is required and what type of access would need to be granted.

⁴ For other users

To request access to SafeSeaNet as an EU institution or body, the requestor should download and fill in the [form](#) which is available on the EMSA Website under [Requesting access to maritime data](#). This form should be sent by post or email to the Commission - DG-MOVE, with EMSA in copy (see Annex for contact details).

Conditions for obtaining access to or receiving the data

Access rights for new users will be subject to certain conditions. Access will be granted:

- for a limited period of up to one (1) year;
- through the web interface;
- only for the information relevant to the mandate of new users, in accordance with the need to know principle;
- for a limited number of identified users.

What happens once a request has been approved

The SSN NCA will take the necessary steps to grant access to SafeSeaNet for the national users while EMSA will do the same for the EU institutions and bodies.

Access to SafeSeaNet may be revoked in cases of proven or suspected misuse, or for use not compliant with the conditions specified.

Requesting SafeSeaNet data

A variety of institutes and organisations have an interest in obtaining bulk data, usually comprising of historical data sets of particular types of data over given time periods.

What data are available

SafeSeaNet information includes Automatic Identification System (AIS) data as well as additional ship and voyage information, including: port notifications (e.g. pre-arrival, arrival and departure times), Hazmat notifications (carriage of dangerous and polluting goods), ship notifications (additional information sent in mandatory reporting areas), and incident reports (e.g. pollution reports).

How to apply

The interested party should send a letter by post or email to the Commission – DG MOVE, with EMSA in copy (see Annex for contact details), indicating the following information:

- Name of requesting party and contact details;
- The type of organisation;
- What the data is needed for;
- How the data will be used;
- Over what time period the data is being requested.

Conditions for obtaining access to or receiving the data

Access to SafeSeaNet data can not be disclosed by EMSA to the general public as it is considered as falling under the exception covered by the provisions of Article 4.2, first indent⁵, of the Regulation 1049/2001.

Requests made by Member State national government authorities, EU institutions and bodies, and by projects or programmes established by these parties and working on issues of public interest will then be forwarded by DG MOVE to EMSA. Once assessed by the Commission and EMSA, the request will be brought to the High Level Steering Group for Governance of the Digital Maritime System and Services to decide whether or not to provide the data.

Conditions will be defined in the form of a Data Access Agreement signed between EMSA and the requestor.

What happens once a request has been approved

Once both parties have signed the Data Access Agreement, data will be provided to the requestor.

EMSA will then determine how to provide data to the requestor, either through a file or a specific technical interface.

⁵ [...] where disclosure would undermine the protection of: commercial interests of a natural or legal person, including intellectual property [...].

Annex – Contact details

EMSA:

Contact details	
European Maritime Safety Agency	Unit 3.3 Simplification Praça Europa 4, 1249-206, Lisbon Portugal Tel: +351 21 1209 415 Fax: +351 21 1209 217 Email: MaritimeSupportServices[a]emsa.europa.eu

DG-MOVE:

Contact details	
European Commission Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG-MOVE)	Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport Unit D2 Maritime Safety Rue de Mot, 28 B-1049, Brussels Belgium Email: MOVE-MARITIME-TRANSPORT-AND-SAFETY[a]ec.europa.eu