



**United States
Marine Safety
Association**

Your International Resource for Marine Safety

July 3, 2007

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

WT Docket Number 04-344

Approval of Class B AIS Equipment

The United States Marine Safety Association is comprised of more than 150 companies and individuals, including international membership. Members are involved in the design, manufacture, sale or service of lifesaving equipment or its components; provide training in the use of such equipment and systems; or are career professionals in maritime safety.

The Association and its members have been following the developments with respect to the subject docket and have concluded that it is important that *approved Class B AIS Equipment becomes available to the maritime community as quickly as possible*. These systems offer significant advances in the safety and security of mariners, vessels, cargo, public and ports and therefore should not be delayed any further.

It is also important that Class B equipment have worldwide compliance, functionality and acceptance. Therefore, *Class B equipment that is compliant with IEC 6287-1 should be approved*.

Also, AIS functionality, in both Class A and Class B equipment is reliant on accurate MMSI data. It is important that FCC take measures to ensure that MMSI and other vital static data is accurate.

We have read the comments submitted by *ACR Electronics, Inc., RTCM, and Negron Marine Consultants* and fully support their observations and recommendations. **The FCC should approve Class B AIS Equipment that meets IEC 62287-1 and further should commence approvals of this equipment as soon as possible so as to so that mariners may benefit from the increased safety and security this equipment provides.**

Sincerely,

Burt W. "Tom" Thompson
Executive Director