# MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE IDENTITY

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**MMSI Decision Matrix**

**MMSI Overview**

Maritime Mobile Service Identities (MMSIs) are nine-digit numbers used by maritime digital selective calling (DSC), automatic identification systems (AIS) and certain other equipment to uniquely identify a ship or a coast radio station. Registered MMSIs are used by Coast Guard search and rescue watchstanders to identity vessels or persons in distress and to save lives. Registered MMSIs are MMSIs are regulated and managed internationally by the International Telecommunications Union in Geneva, Switzerland, and nationally by the Federal Communications Commission, just as radio call signs are regulated. The MMSI format and use is regulated in Article 19 of the ITU Radio Regulations and documented in ITU-R [Recommendation M.585-9](https://www.itu.int/rec/R-REC-M.585/en), available from the ITU at no charge.

**Accurate use of MMSIs may save your life**

**﻿**Search and rescue authorities, including the Coast Guard, use the MMSI to learn background information about a vessel in distress (e.g., owner's name, intended route, and other radio equipment on board) and to determine whether the alert is false. An accurate MMSI database helps to protect lives and property at sea by reducing the time needed to locate vessels in distress. DSC distress calls or AIS identities with out-of-date MMSI registrations or invalid/missing positions make a resolution of real distress situations versus an inadvertent DSC alert much more difficult. It is necessary to keep the MMSI registration current. It may save your life.

**Inaccurate use of MMSIs is a violation of FCC rules**

﻿[FCC Enforcement Advisory No. 2016-04](https://www.fcc.gov/document/eb-reminds-mariners-marine-radio-rules-protecting-public-safety) *MARINE RADIO - Enforcement Bureau Reminds Mariners of Marine Radio Rules Protecting Public Safety* notes that “Use of inaccurate MMSIs is a violation of FCC rules , with potential impact upon safety of life and property”. If misuse is intentional or repeated, “﻿Violators may be subject to the penalties authorized by the Communications Act, including monetary penalties as high as $16,000 for each violation. Your radio equipment may also be seized and forfeited to the U.S. Government.”.

# MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE IDENTITY

**MMSIs for Recreational Vessels**

**Obtaining and Registering an MMSI**

Vessels not required to carry a marine radio and who remain in U.S. waters are non-compulsory vessels and do not need an FCC ship station license. These vessel owners can obtain an MMSI through approved organizations such as [BOAT US](http://www.boatus.com/mmsi/) 1-800-563-1536, [U.S. Power Squadron](http://www.usps.org/php/mmsi/home.php) 888-367-8777 and [Shine Micro](https://www.shinemicro.com/About-MMSI/) (360) 437-2503. You can also voluntarily obtain an [FCC ship station license and get your MMSI](https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/bureau-divisions/mobility-division/maritime-mobile/ship-radio-stations/ship-radio-stations) that way. Each radio on the vessel must use the same, identical MMSI.

If your vessel requires an FCC ship station license, please follow the < MMSIs for Commercial, or State, Local or Tribal Government Vessels<link to page 3>> procedures.

**Maintaining your MMSI Registration**

MMSI registration information is sent to the U.S. Coast Guard so that search and rescue responders can identify and locate mariners who are in distress. For that reason, it is necessary to periodically update your registration whenever contact or vessel information changes. MMSI registrants will email you reminders to update and confirm your registration biennially. You can update your contact in formation anytime by logging on to your registrant’s website.

Note that although Sea Tow is no longer accepting new MMSI registrations, they are continuing to maintain existing ones. Contact [SEA TOW](https://seatow.com/marine-services/mmsi/) 1-800-4SEATOW,

**Who registered my MMSI?**

If you do not recall who gave you your MMSI and registered it for you, you can identify that organization by comparing your existing MMSI against those listed in the document [MMSI ship station blocks allocated in the US](https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/MMSIAllotments.pdf) (updated 23 December 2022).

**Sailing to Foreign Countries**

If you plan to sail to a foreign country, you will need to apply for an FCC ship station license. Unfortunately, you will need to delete your existing own-ship MMSI and replace it with the MMSI provided by the FCC as part of your station license. You will need to contact the radio manufacturer for instructions on deleting own ship MMSI. You cannot do it yourself without instruction from the manufacturer. If you travel to a foreign port (e.g., Canada, Mexico, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands), an FCC station license is required. Additionally, if you travel to a foreign port, you are required to have an operator permit.

**Important: MMSI belongs with the vessel, not the user.**

See instructions below for selling or disposing your radio or radio equipped vessel.

**What to do when Selling or Disposing your Radio or Radio-equipped Vessel** <link page 12>

**MMSI Format**

All ship MMSIs use the format M1I2D3X4X5X6X7X8X9 where in the first three digits represent the Maritime Identification Digits (MID) and X is any figure from 0 to 9. (Hint: Ships transmitting with an MMSI not starting with the digits 201-775 are likely doing so improperly, and may be subject to FCC or USCG enforcement action)

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# MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE IDENTITY

**MMSIs for Commercial, or State, Local or Tribal Government Vessels**

**Obtaining and Registering an MMSI**

Vessels required by regulation to carry a marine radio or AIS, which are compulsory vessels, and those also who travel outside the U.S. or Canada to foreign ports must apply to the [Federal Communications Commission for a ship station license](https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/bureau-divisions/mobility-division/maritime-mobile/ship-radio-stations/ship-radio-stations) or an amendment to a ship station license in order to obtain an FCC station license and an MMSI. State, local and tribal governments [recognized by the FCC](https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/systems-utilities/universal-licensing-system/wireless-fees/application-fee-exemptions) can obtain an FCC ship station license at no charge. Each radio on the vessel must use the same, identical MMSI.

**Maintaining your MMSI Registration**

FCC ship station license MMSI information is sent to the U.S. Coast Guard so that search and rescue responders can identify and locate mariners who are in distress. For that reason, it is necessary to keep FCC license contact and vessel information up to date whenever information changes prior to license renewal. FCC ship station license renewal is normally every ten years. Information can be updated prior to license renewal without charge.

**Groups of Ships (DSC only)**

Group ship station call identities for calling simultaneously more than one ship use the format 01M2I3D4X5X6X7X8X9, where the first figure is zero and X is any figure from 0 to 9. The MID represents only the territory or geographical area of the administration assigning the group ship station call identity and does not prevent group calls to fleets containing more than one ship nationality.

Users having an MMSI assigned by FCC license, all of which have a trailing zero, may create a group identity by inserting a zero before the identity and removing the trailing zero (e.g. a user having an MMSI of *366123450* is allowed to use the group identity *036612345*).

**Important: MMSI belongs with the vessel, not the user.** See instructions below for selling or disposing your radio or radio equipped vessel.

**What to do when Selling or Disposing your Radio or Radio-equipped Vessel** <link page 12>

**MMSI Format**

All ship MMSIs use the format M1I2D3X4X5X6X7X8X9 where in the first three digits represent the Maritime Identification Digits (MID) and X is any figure from 0 to 9. (Hint: Ships transmitting with an MMSI not starting with the digits 201-775 are likely doing so improperly, and may be subject to FCC or USCG enforcement action)

The ship MID indicates the flag state or country of registry.

# Groups of Ships (DSC only)

Group ship station call identities for calling simultaneously more than one ship use the format 01M2I3D4X5X6X7X8X9, where the first figure is zero and X is any figure from 0 to 9. The MID represents only the territory or geographical area of the administration assigning the group ship station call identity and does not prevent group calls to fleets containing more than one ship nationality.

No process currently exists to assign non-federal group ship station identities. However, users having an MMSI assigned by FCC license, all of which have a trailing zero, may create a group identity by inserting a zero before the identity and removing the trailing zero (e.g. a user having an MMSI of *366123450* is allowed to use the group identity *036612345*).

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# MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE IDENTITY

**MMSIs for Federal Vessels**

**Obtaining and Registering an MMSI**

Federal users can obtain MMSI assignments from their agency radio spectrum management office in accordance with Section 6.6 of the [NTIA Manual](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/page/2011/manual-regulations-and-procedures-federal-radio-frequency-management-redbook). Agency Spectrum management office contact information can be found in the [NTIA Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC)](https://ntia.gov/page/interdepartment-radio-advisory-committee-irac) Committee membership and contact information. U.S. Coast Guard users can obtain an MMSI through Commandant (CG-672)<link to HQS-SMB-CG-672@USCG.MIL> in accordance with Commandant Instruction M2000.3 series, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary surface vessel operators should request assignment of MMSIs using the same method as a U.S. Non-Federal user. Each radio on the vessel must use the same, identical MMSI.

**Maintaining your MMSI Registration or Transferring your Vessel or your Radio**

U.S. Coast Guard search and rescue authorities rely on MMSI registration information whenever the distress button on a DSC-equipped VHF marine radio is pressed. For that reason, it is essential that MMSI registration be kept current. Please notify your spectrum management office or office responsible for MMSIs to notify them whenever the radio is removed from a vessel, transferred to another vessel, surplused, or when other significant changes are made.

**Deleting own-ship MMSI** <link page 12>

**MMSI Format**

All ship MMSIs use the format M1I2D3X4X5X6X7X8X9 where in the first three digits represent the Maritime Identification Digits (MID) and X is any figure from 0 to 9. (Hint: Ships transmitting with an MMSI not starting with the digits 201-775 are likely doing so improperly, and may be subject to enforcement action).

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# MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE IDENTITY

**MMSIs for VHF Handhelds**

**Obtaining MMSIs for DSC-equipped Marine VHF Handhelds**

A marine VHF handheld transceiver with DSC and an integral global navigation satellite system (e.g. GPS), not intended for dedicated use on a particular ship, is assigned a unique 9-digit number in the format 81M2I3D4X5X6X7X8X9. At present, only [FCC](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.fcc.gov_wireless_bureau-2Ddivisions_mobility-2Ddivision_maritime-2Dmobile_vhf-2Dhandheld-2Dstations&d=DwMFaQ&c=tnPw9yRHa20_HV5YVoVFtg&r=8E2cIXmA8kEQ0Y13pUYuvGxa2WNLG7JYGgug7imEUro&m=6F5ozR025Gyut_yGZm1R1E1tGUdFMNLsQxsdOk5v9lliVRPwcoLztfvWB76UNCih&s=XwLdsXnDX5xMOGbQYr-eeKcmeHEyD4ZYjvbXrpycLxA&e=) and [Shine Micro](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.shinemicro.com_About-2DMMSI_&d=DwMFaQ&c=tnPw9yRHa20_HV5YVoVFtg&r=8E2cIXmA8kEQ0Y13pUYuvGxa2WNLG7JYGgug7imEUro&m=6F5ozR025Gyut_yGZm1R1E1tGUdFMNLsQxsdOk5v9lliVRPwcoLztfvWB76UNCih&s=MkwD9rYkny-oo_Huo7cvBPt5gnyx5Cf6h0e0WjSmoUY&e=) are providing and registering marine VHF handheld MMSIs.

**Marine VHF handhelds licensed by rule**

If the handheld is only to be used on boats “licensed by rule”, i.e. non-compulsory vessels not required to carry a radio and not going on foreign voyages, the VHF handheld MMSI may be obtained by a license-by-rule provider such as [Shine Micro](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.shinemicro.com_About-2DMMSI_&d=DwMFaQ&c=tnPw9yRHa20_HV5YVoVFtg&r=8E2cIXmA8kEQ0Y13pUYuvGxa2WNLG7JYGgug7imEUro&m=6F5ozR025Gyut_yGZm1R1E1tGUdFMNLsQxsdOk5v9lliVRPwcoLztfvWB76UNCih&s=MkwD9rYkny-oo_Huo7cvBPt5gnyx5Cf6h0e0WjSmoUY&e=). VHF handhelds used for any other purpose must be licensed by the FCC and MMSI obtained from the FCC. MMSIs obtained by any other provider, including BOAT US and USPS, are currently limited to ship station MMSIs and should not be used with handhelds, unless the handheld is kept with and only used with a single vessel.

**Marine VHF handhelds licensed by FCC**

FCC offers two licensing options for Marine VHF Handheld Radios: SA Portable and Coast Station Handheld VHF. Further information can be found in the FCC [VHF Handheld Stations](https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/bureau-divisions/mobility-division/maritime-mobile/vhf-handheld-stations) webpage.

* SA Portable (ship recreational or voluntary equipped portable): Portable, used when operating VHF handhelds from ships, but not a kept on a single ship. Examples include diver’s radios and portables used on various vessels on an as-needed basis.
* Marine Utility Station: VHF handheld intended for use on multiple vessels will be licensed as a portable (SA-Portable) ship station license. Used when operating a VHF handheld ashore. This station operates under the rules applicable to ship stations when the unit is aboard a vessel, and under the rules applicable to private coast stations when the unit is on land.

**Marine VHF handhelds used ashore**

﻿FCC permits use of portable marine VHF radios ashore only in areas adjacent to the water, such as docks and beaches. In addition, onshore communications using such radios must relate to the operational and business needs of the associated vessel, and must be limited to the minimum practicable transmission time (See [FCC Report and Order, WT Docket 14-36](https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/search-filings/results?q=(proceedings.name:(%2214-36%22)+AND+submissiontype.description:(%22REPORT%22%20AND%20%22ORDER%22)))).

**What to do when Selling or Disposing your Radio** <link page 12>

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# MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE IDENTITY

**MMSIs for Craft Associated with a Parent Ship (Launches etc)**

Radios used on craft associated with a parent ship, such as launches, tenders, towed vessels, etc., are licensed under the parent vessel’s ship station license. Consequently, DSC-equipped radios on these craft may use the same MMSI as assigned to the parent craft. However, AIS equipment installed on these craft must have a unique identity separate from the parent ship. DSC equipment on these craft may need a unique identity as well. While the ITU has established a special identity for craft associated with a parent ship, the U.S. has adopted a different approach.

**9182M3I4D5X6X7X8X9**

The ITU has designated the format 9182M3I4D5X6X7X8X9 for craft associated with a parent ship, where the digits 3, 4 and 5 represent the Maritime Identification Digits (MID) and X is any digit from 0 to 9. Most maritime countries have adopted this format. However, no provision currently exists for assigning these identities in the United States.

**MMSIs for Craft Associated with a Parent Ship in the United States**

Since radio equipment on craft associated with a parent ship are licensed by rule under the parent ship’s FCC ship station license, users may obtain a unique ship station MMSI using the same procedures as for **MMSIs for Recreational Vessels** <Link 2>

AIS stations used on such vessels should enter “A” followed by the last 6 digits of the MMSI of the parent vessel onto their AIS Call Sign parameter in lieu of an official call-sign.

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# MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE IDENTITY

**MMSIs for AIS Private Aids to Navigation**

# AIS Aids to Navigation (AtoN)

# AIS used as or on an aid to navigation (AtoN) uses this basic format 9192M3I4D5X6X7X8X9, where the digits 3, 4 and 5 represent the [MID](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/terrestrial/fmd/Pages/mid.aspx) and X is any figure from 0 to 9. See [Types of AIS](https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/types-of-ais) and [AIS Frequently Asked Questions #21](https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/ais-frequently-asked-questions#21) for instructions on applying for a Private AIS Aids to Navigation station.

# AIS AtoN Use in the United States

# Alaska 993030000 – 993039999

# General (non-USCG) 993660000 – 993669999

* + US Army Corp of Engineers 993660000 – 993662999

# Private (non-federal) 993663000 – 993666999

# Federal 993667000 – 993667999

# AIS Mobile AtoN 993668000 – 993668999

# US Coast Guard 993670000 – 993699999

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**MMSI for Coast Stations**

**Coast Radio Stations (Base Stations)**

All coast or base stations use the format 0102M3I4D5X6X7X8X9, where the digits 3, 4 and 5 represent the MID and X is any figure from 0 to 9. Groups of DSC coast radio stations use the same format.

**DSC Coast Stations**

The combination 0102M3I4D506070809 is used to address all 00MIDXXXX DSC stations within the administration. The combination 010293949506070809 is used to address all VHF DSC 00MIDXXXX stations worldwide. These two special combinations are not used in the United States.

The U.S. Coast Guard DSC group coast station identity is 003669999. DSC test calls received on this identity using VHF or 4207.5 kHz should be automatically acknowledged. Note that “Test Call” must first be selected in the DSC radio’s menu for this function to work properly.

VHF coast stations desiring to use DSC must use a radio designed for coast station use rather than a ship radio. MMSIs can be obtained by adding an attachment to your FCC coast station application in accordance with the FCC instructions described [here](https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/bureau-divisions/mobility-division/maritime-mobile/coast-radio-stations/coast-radio-1).

**AIS Coast Stations**

The U.S. Coast Guard operates AIS coast stations under its [Nationwide Automatic Identification System](https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Programs/C4ISR-Programs/nais/) program. The FCC currently does not license AIS private coast stations.

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# MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE IDENTITY

**MMSIs for Search and Rescue Aircraft**

AIS and DSC equipment used on search and rescue aircraft use the format 111213M4I5D6X7X8X9 where the digits 4, 5 and 6 represent the MID and X is any figure from 0 to 9. In the United States, these MMSIs are currently only used by the U.S. Coast Guard.

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# MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE IDENTITY

**MMSIs for Search and Rescue Transmitters, EPIRBs, PLBs, MSLDs and AMRDs**

# AIS Search and Rescue Transmitter (SART)

AIS search and rescue transmitters (SART) use the format 917203X4X5Y6Y7Y8Y9, where the digits 4 and 5 are assigned by the [International Association for Marine Electronics Companies (CIRM)](https://cirm.org/) and refer to the SART manufacturer, and digits 6, 7, 8 and 9 are sequential digits assigned by the manufacturer identifying the SART.

# Maritime Survivor Locating Devices (MSLDs) using DSC and AIS

The MSLD device that transmits DSC and/or AIS should use an identity 917223X4X5Y6Y7Y8Y9, (where xx = manufacturer ID 01 to 99 assigned by CIRM; yyyy = the sequence number 0000 to 9999. When reaching 9999 the manufacturer should restart the sequence numbering at 0000.The manufacturer ID xx = 00 is reserved for test purposes). Combination DSC - AIS devices will transmit one common user ID.

MSLD devices are described by standards [RTCM 11901](https://rtcm.myshopify.com/collections/standards-for-distress-alerting-devices) and [IEC 62329](https://webstore.iec.ch/publication/65431).

# 406 MHz EPIRB with AIS locating beacons

The EPIRB-AIS should use an identity 917243X4X5Y6Y7Y8Y9, (where xx = manufacturer ID 01 to 99; yyyy = the sequence number 0000 to 9999. When reaching 9999 the manufacturer should restart the sequence numbering at 0000.).

The user identity of the EPIRB-AIS indicates the identity of the homing device of the EPIRB-AIS, and not the MMSI of the ship.

406 MHz Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) equipped with AIS locating beacons also use this identity

# Autonomous Maritime Radio Devices (AMRDs)

When implemented, AMRD Group B will describe AIS devices that transmit on 160.9 MHz, VHF channel 2006, and use the MMSI identity ﻿917293Y4Y5Y6Y7Y8Y9. ﻿ This MMSI is not transmitted on Channels AIS1 or AIS2. Y4Y5Y6Y7Y8Y9 is a pseudorandom number, to be determined by the manufacturer. AMRD Group B devices do not enhance the safety of navigation and they deliver signals or information which are not relevant for the navigator of general shipping. They are defined in more detail in Recommendation [ITU-R M.2135](https://www.itu.int/rec/R-REC-M.2135/en).

AMRD Group A devices are used for safety purposes, transmitting on Channels AIS 1 and AIS 2, or Channel 70 DSC. They include the SART, MSLD, EPIRB described above, as well as <AIS Mobile AtoNs.> <link page 7>

Recognizing the differences in the MID for these three devices might be crucial in a Distress/SAR situation. Note that MMSIs used by these devices are unregistered.

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# MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE IDENTITY

**MMSIs for Vessels Registered or Located Outside of the U.S**

Users outside the U.S. can obtain an MMSI assignment from their telecommunications authority or ship registry, often by obtaining or amending their ship station license. Canadians can obtain an [MMSI from Industry Canada](https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/spectrum-management-telecommunications/en/learn-more/key-documents/procedures/client-procedures-circulars-cpc/cpc-2-3-07-obtaining-identities-maritime-mobile-service).

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# MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE IDENTITY

**What to do when Selling or Disposing your Radio or Radio-equipped Vessel**

**Essential that you delete own ship MMSI, and cancel or transfer your MMSI and registration**

If you decide to sell your radio, dispose it or transfer it to another vessel, or sell your radio-equipped vessel, it is absolutely essential that you either delete own-ship MMSI and cancel your MMSI registration, or arrange to transfer your registration to the new owner prior to completing the sale. If your vessel has more than one MMSI-equipped device, then you cannot transfer MMSI registration when you sell a single radio. You must delete its MMSI.

If you forget to transfer and cancel your MMSI registration, or delete own-ship MMSI and cancel registration, then you could be held liable if and when the new owner transmits a distress alert using the radio, or uses the AIS which you sold or disposed.

**Selling your Vessel**

Vessel sale or online equipment purchase without properly changing or passing on the MMSI is a significant problem.

The MMSI goes with the vessel, not with the user: here is what you need to do.

Option 1: Contact the manufacturer of each AIS and DSC-equipped radio on the vessel, and have its own-ship MMSI deleted. Confirm that own-ship MMSI has been deleted by switching on the radio.

Option 2: Transfer your MMSI registration to the new vessel owner at the time the vessel is sold, following the Transferring MMSI Registration procedures below.

If you decide to remove and retain any AIS or DSC-equipped radio from the vessel being sold, the retained radio equipment must have its MMSI deleted.

**Deleting own-ship MMSI**

ITU regulations prevent you from deleting own-ship MMSI without advice from the radio manufacturer. You will need to contact the manufacturer or its representative to determine how MMSIs are deleted on that particular model, regardless of whether it is DSC-equipped radio or an AIS unit. For some models, deleting is easy, entering a code provided by the manufacturer. For others, it is more difficult, requiring a visit by a dealer or the radio be removed and returned to the manufacturer. For that reason, anyone purchasing a DSC-equipped radio or AIS is urged to find out how own-ship MMSIs are deleted on that radio prior to purchase.

**Cancelling and Transferring MMSI Registration**

[FCC](https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/bureau-divisions/mobility-division/maritime-mobile/ship-radio-stations/maritime-mobile), [BOAT US](http://www.boatus.com/mmsi/), [U.S. Power Squadron](http://www.usps.org/php/mmsi/home.php), [Shine Micro](https://www.shinemicro.com/About-MMSI/) and [SEA TOW](https://seatow.com/marine-services/mmsi/) allow you to cancel your registration on their website, and will allow you to transfer your registration, at least if the buyer and seller register with the same organization. Transfer must occur by both the seller and buyer either simultaneously, or by showing proof that both parties concur with the transfer. If you do not know which organization registered your MMSI, you can find out [here](https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/MMSIAllotments.pdf).

If you purchased a radio and are unable to contact the seller to transfer the MMSI registration, then you must contact the radio manufacturer and have the radio’s own-ship MMSI deleted.

If you sold the radio and are unable to contact the purchaser to transfer the MMSI registration, then you must update your registration to note the situation and, if possible, identify the purchaser; then cancel the registration. Cancelled MMSI registrations remain in the database and can be useful during search and rescue.

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# MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE IDENTITY

**MMSI Formats**

**Maritime Identification Digits (MID)**

MIDs are three-digit identifiers ranging from 201 to 775 denoting the administration (country) or geographical area of the administration responsible for the ship station so identified. See the [ITU Table of Maritime Identification Digits.](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/terrestrial/fmd/Pages/mid.aspx)

US MIDs allocated by the ITU and assigned by the FCC are 338, 366, 367, 368 and 369.

US regional MMSIs are generally, at present, not used by ships but may be used by coast stations and AIS Aids to Navigation Stations. They include:

303 Alaska

358 Puerto Rico

379 U.S. Virgin Islands

536 Northern Marianas islands

559 American Samoa

<<< Insert MMSI Summary Excel table here, or link as a popup window >>

**MMSI Summary Table**

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# MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE IDENTITY

**Search and Rescue Watchstanders**

**Valid MMSIs used in distress alerts**

Valid MMSIs used in DSC distress alerts always begin with the following digits:

* 201xxxxxx through 775xxxxxx. These three digits are [MIDs](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/terrestrial/fmd/Pages/mid.aspx) assigned to individual countries by the ITU. 776xxxxxx – 799xxxxxx may also be allocated in the future without notice
* 98MIDxxxx are used by craft associated with a parent ship, such as launches. They are not used in the U.S.
* 972xxxxxx are used by Maritime Survivor Locating Devices (MSLDs). These MMSIs are unregistered.

**MMSI databases**

The FCC allocates blocks of MMSI for assignment to ships through its [Universal Licensing System](https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchShip.jsp), to federal ships through NTIA, and to recreational vessels and other non-compulsory users through private license-by-rule providers [BOAT US](http://www.boatus.com/mmsi/) 1-800-563-1536, [U.S. Power Squadron](http://www.usps.org/php/mmsi/home.php) 888-367-8777, [Shine Micro](https://www.shinemicro.com/About-MMSI/) (360) 437-2503, and [Sea Tow](https://seatow.com/marine-services/mmsi/) 800-4-SEATOW (Sea Tow is no longer accepting new registrations but is maintaining existing ones). All providers except NTIA are or are in the process of submitting data weekly into Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement (MISLE) database. However, MISLE can only accept portions of the data provided. Consequently, direct contact with MMSI providers is necessary to obtain complete registration information.

MMSI data collected by license-by-rule providers contains more detailed information than data collected by MISLE, as shown in <MMSI MOU Attachment A MMSI Data Record><link to MMSI-MOU-attachA-new.pdf>.

[BOAT US](http://www.boatus.com/mmsi/) allows SAR watchstanders password-controlled direct access to its database. FCC ULS access requires no password but data is limited. The [FCC Operations Center](https://www.fcc.gov/operations-center-public-safety-homeland-security-bureau) 202-418-1122 is also available on a 24 hours a day, 365 days a year basis supporting maritime search and rescue, including geolocation and MMSI. Access to US Power Squadrons, Shine Micro, Sea Tow and NTIA databases currently requires personal intervention by the provider.

FCC maintains a listing of MMSI allocated to various MMSI providers [here](https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/MMSIAllotments.pdf), useful in identifying in which database a particular MMSI has been registered. This listing does not include MMSIs that were later transferred to a different provider.

MMSIs assigned outside the United States should be listed in the ITU Maritime mobile Access and Retrieval System (MARS) [Ship Station Search](Maritime%20mobile%20Access%20and%20Retrieval%20System%20(MARS)) website, or from a Rescue Coordination Center in the country from which the MMSI was assigned.

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