

# Automatic Identification System (AIS)

## Links to applicable regulations

[33 CFR 164.46](#) – Automated identification systems

[33 CFR 161.21](#) – Automated reporting requirements

[33 CFR 26.03\(f\)](#) – Radiotelephone requirements

## Checklist for this item

|  |                                                                                                                                  |
|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <b>An AIS is required only for vessels transiting any Vessel Traffic Control Service (VTS) Area</b>                              |
|  | Ensure the vessel has a properly installed Class A AIS. Class B devices are not acceptable for vessels required to carry an AIS. |
|  | Check to ensure the installed or portable AIS is operational.                                                                    |
|  | A Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) required by NMFS does not meet the requirements for AIS.                                        |

## What is AIS

An AIS transmits vessel data to the VTS system. All vessels in the system are presented on an AIS screen providing the user with a picture of other vessels relative to the users vessel.

By selecting a vessel on the screen the user is presented with information about that vessel including the vessels name, course, speed, classification,, call sign, registration number and other important information about the vessel. This information is also provided to the Coast Guard in order to track vessels entering the United States.

