

Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System
U.S. Coast Guard



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AMVER AND POLE STAR PARTNER TO INCREASE SAFETY AT SEA

Unique government and commercial partnership make the oceans safer

NEW YORK – “Hope is the last thing to die... for those who find themselves in perilous conditions on our oceans, it's important they know a fellow mariner will come to their aid” stated Nicholas Pappadakis, INTERCARGO chairman and board member of the Union of Greek Shipowners, as he commented on a unique partnership between Amver and Pole Star that will significantly increase the number of ships available to assist mariners in distress.

Starting this May, all vessels registered in Pole Star’s Fleet Management service will be able to automatically report to the Amver system at no cost to the operator or Amver.

Pole Star, a maritime software company that tracks ships for owners, operators and charterers, was approached by Amver in 2007 and asked if they could make modifications to their software to allow for automated Amver reporting. As any seafarer will know, Amver reporting is currently transmitted from each ship by email to the Amver operational headquarters and requires reporting of sailing plans, daily position reports, deviation reports and final arrival reports. Although many masters support Amver, it is a manual task that requires time away from other bridge duties.

Captain Christopher Hall, United States Coast Guard Chief of Search and Rescue, is happy to promote the multiple benefits of this partnership “The workload on shipmasters is already high, and this collaboration means the master no longer has to manually send reports to Amver. This achieves both savings on communication costs from the vessel and relieves that administrative burden from the master. Furthermore, the more vessels reporting to Amver, the higher the concentration of vessels available to respond resulting in safer shipping.”

INTERTANKO are in support for this partnership as well. Capt. Howard Snaith, Director stated "INTERTANKO fully recognizes the huge benefits the Amver program has towards the safety of life at sea and is particularly pleased to learn of Amver’s new human element approach towards continuous development by decreasing the administrative burden on the master.”

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The last significant technological advance made by Amver was their ability to receive position reports by email and input these directly into their system. This ground breaking development is the next technological leap forward: automating Amver reporting. By removing any barriers to reporting from shipping companies there will be an increased participation in the Amver program.

Pole Star utilised their expertise to help the maritime sector evolve towards safer shipping. Recognizing the corporate social responsibility impact this partnership has isn't about philanthropy, but every maritime company taking active responsibility participating in improving the industry, and making it safer for seafarers.

Pole Star currently tracks and monitors over 12,000 vessels and have designed a function within their Fleet Management service that allows ship owners or operators to automatically forward position reports to the Amver system.

There are over 18,000 vessels enrolled in the Amver network from over 140 countries. At this very moment over 3,300 ships are actively reporting and are available to assist in the search and rescue of their fellow mariners. Amver's success is tied directly to the number of merchant vessels regularly reporting their position. The more ships on their plot, the greater the chance a ship will be identified near the position of a distress.

Amver is a demonstration of international humanitarian cooperation, mariner helping mariner, by assisting any person in distress at sea regardless of nationality or status. Thereby, support of this system feeds into any shipping company's corporate responsibility plan.

Amver, sponsored by the United States Coast Guard, is a unique, computer-based, and voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to persons in distress at sea. With Amver, rescue coordinators can identify participating ships in the area of distress and divert the best-suited ship or ships to respond.

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