

Former *Annual New Zealand Notice to Mariners, No. 4B*, published 1 July 2024 is cancelled. This is a repetition of the former notice.

Authority: Maritime New Zealand

Purpose and Details of Organisation

1. The Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System (AMVER), operated by the United States Coastguard, is an international maritime mutual assistance organisation which provides important aid to the development and coordination of Search and Rescue (SAR) efforts in the AMVER reporting area. New Zealand is a participant in the AMVER system. New Zealand merchant vessels are encouraged to send movement reports and periodic position reports to the AMVER centre on Governors Island in Lower New York harbour, via selected coast radio stations. Information from these reports is entered onto computer which supplies dead reckoning positions of the vessels. Appropriate information concerning the predicted location and SAR characteristics of each vessel known to be within an area of interest is made available on request to recognised SAR agencies of any nation, or person in distress, for use during an emergency. Predicted locations are disclosed only for reasons concerning maritime safety. AMVER SURPICS (surface pictures) are used in conjunction with ships' position information obtained from sources such as VTS, AIS or Distress Alert messages received via GMDSS Communication terminals.

SURPICS can only be as accurate as the information fed into the AMVER system, and accuracy can only be achieved by ships' masters ensuring that their reports are correct and are kept up-to-date, particularly in respect of diversions or revised estimation times of arrival at ports.

AMVER Message Types and Format

2. Any vessel of any nation departing on an offshore passage of 24 hours duration or greater is encouraged to become a participant in the AMVER system by sending appropriate AMVER messages in four types of format described in the *US Coastguard AMVER User Manual* which is available from <https://www.amver.com/Forms/Manual>. The messages may be transmitted at any convenient time as long as the information is accurate and the data corresponds to the time specified. The information may be estimated for a short time in the future, for the present or for a short time past.

Address of AMVER Message

3. If a ship already has an inexpensive means of sending email to an internet address, this is a preferred method. Email may be sent via satellite or via HF radio, depending on the ship's equipment and arrangements with communication providers ashore. Ships must be equipped with a personal computer, an interface between the computer and the ship's communication equipment, and the appropriate software.
 AMVER can be contacted via amvermsg@amver.org or amvermsg@amver.com.
4. All AMVER messages should be addressed to the participating AMVER Coast Radio Station to which the message is sent, 'AMVER (name of station)'. For example, AMVER Taupo. Messages sent to any Canadian station should be addressed to AMVER Halifax or AMVER Vancouver.

AMVER messages are considered to comply with the USA regulations requiring notification to the Coastguard captain 24 hours before arrival at a US port.

For further information, see: www.amver.com.