



**Use of VHF DSC and MMSI numbers  
by Auxiliary aircraft**

We have received several questions, from members, regarding the use of VHF DSC radios by Auxiliary aircraft for the purpose of position and ops reporting. This use involves the employment civilian MMSI numbers legally assigned to privately owned vessels. We have asked CG-652 (Office of Spectrum Management) to provide guidance on this subject and an extract of their response follows:

***“The USCG has no frequency assignments that allow Auxiliary aircraft to operate on VHF DSC channel 70 (M156.525) in any capacity. Furthermore, there is no ITU, NTIA, FCC, FAA or USCG rule or regulation that authorizes the use of VHF DSC channel 70 for routine communications aboard aircraft. Furthermore, the USCG Auxiliary Operations Manual, COMDTINST M16798.3 (series), Appendix J section J.3, states: “Auxiliary Unit vessels, aircraft facilities, and radio facilities are not authorized civilian MMSI codes.”***

Note: Nothing in this guidance, or the Operations Manual, COMDTINST M16798.3 (series), Appendix J section J.3, precludes the use of VHF DSC radios aboard civilian owned Auxiliary surface vessels. Furthermore, civilian owned Auxiliary surface vessels may apply for and use civilian MMSI numbers to enhance their ability to communicate. To be clear, a civilian MMSI number may also be used during those times when the vessel is being used as an Auxiliary operational facility.