

What is ATIS mode?

and does my Standard Horizon Radio have it?

What is ATIS?

ATIS (Automatic Transmitter Identification System) mode is a signalling protocol used on the inland waterways of Europe that enables the authorities to identify each transmission by a short data burst send when the PTT key is released.

The rules on its use have been in place since the early '90s , governed by the RAINWAT agreement (**R**egional **A**rrangement for radio communications on **I**Nland **W**ATerways) signed by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Montenegro, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands and the Slovak Republic. Its use is mandatory for commercial vessels, tugs etc that travel through the waters of the countries that are signatories to the agreements. Details of the agreement can be downloaded from the German Administration website www.rainwat.bipt.de .

What is the ATIS code and how is it used?

The ATIS Code is made up of your MMSI number with a '9' appended to the front, but it is important to have this number issued by your local Radio Administrator (**O**FCOM in the UK) as the ATIS number has to be registered on the RAINWAT database.

The ATIS number is used for example when you call the local lock requesting permission to transit through their lock, when you release the PTT the ATIS data burst is decoded at the lock keepers office and used to look up details of your boat like name, length and draft. This of course gives the lock keeper vital information about your boat enabling him to respond to you immediately indicating whether you can go straight in or maybe have to wait till there is space available.

ATIS Mode restrictions

ATIS Mode has some restrictions on the use of channels that are different from the normal marine channel usage. These are summarised below.

General: Scanning not permitted.
 Dual Watch not permitted
 DSC not permitted.
 User cannot change ATIS specific parameters.

Handhelds General requirements as above with Channel 15 and 17 only allowed.

Fixed mobile: General requirement as above and only low power allowed on the following channels. CH6,8,10,11,12,13,14,15,17,71,72,74,75,76,77.

Until January 2009 the RAINWAT countries ignored visiting pleasure craft and did not insist on the use of ATIS when travelling through the waters of the RAINWAT countries. After January 2009 they have insisted on all vessels having ATIS Mode enabled on their radios.

If you have a sailing boat and are using the canals of France or Germany to transit through these countries to the Mediterranean, then you will have to step your mast and you need to think about having an alternative VHF aerial for use when you are in the canals.

ATIS on Standard Horizon Radio products

Standard Horizon has supported ATIS mode for many years as a function only available through your dealer, where the radio was configured for ATIS mode.

We have now instigated a program to integrate ATIS mode selection into our radios, that enables users to select or deselect it as required.

Standard Horizon VHF radios have 3 channel plans built into them. These are the International, USA and Canada plans.

We can modify the USA or CAN plan to reflect the requirements for RAINWAT as above and enable the ATIS Code for this channel plan. The default plan changed is the Canada one, but we can also use the USA one if required. The International channel plan is the one that is used in UK waters.

User can then simple enable ATIS mode by changing the active channel plan to CAN (or USA) and disable it by reverting to their normal INT channel plan. We hope to integrate ATIS mode automatically into our products in the future.

This is a chargeable service for which we charge £32 inc VAT and return carriage within the UK. Please include a letter detailing the ATIS number and copy of the OFCOM letter confirming the ATIS number allocation. Proof of purchase of the radio is not required. Please ensure that you include a daytime phone number as we use TNT signed next day for delivery.

Non UK users should contact the Service Department before sending their radio in for ATIS programming.



ATIS Programming Quote

We offer an ATIS or MMSI programming service for the following Standard Horizon Radios HX270E, HX280E, HX370E, HX500E, HX750E, HX760E, GX1100E, GX1500E, GX3000E and VM3500E

To change or input the ATIS or MMS I number in your radio we charge £32 including VAT and return carriage.

Please include a letter detailing MMSI/ATIS number and a copy of OFCOM letter with new MMSI/ATIS number.

It is important to include a daytime phone number with your letter, as we use a TNT signed for next day service for delivery. An invoice is normally posted when the equipment is ready for dispatch and payment is made before dispatch of the radio.

Please mark package:

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