

HARTS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1 What is the objective of HARTS?

A1 HARTS enables the automatic identification of all powered harbour and pleasure craft plying in our waters. This allows the security agencies to focus on those without an identification tag. The objective is to enhance the security of Singapore's port waters.

Q2 How does HARTS work?

A2 The HARTS set-up comprises three main components as follows:

- (a) HARTS transponders fitted onboard the craft;
- (b) Wireless communication link, and
- (c) A shore-based tracking system

Real time data from the transponder such as vessel identity, position, speed, course and other information are transmitted to a shore-based system via the wireless communication link. The GSM/GPRS (Global System for Mobile communications/General Packet Radio Service) offered by the local Telco (Telecommunications Service Providers) was selected for the wireless communication link. This is currently the most cost effective solution requiring minimum set up cost as the base station is already in place. To ensure minimum or no intervention from craft owner/user, a 'black-box' design has been adopted for the HARTS transponder to be installed onboard the craft.

Q3 What is the operational area of HARTS?

A3 The operational area is the Singapore port waters. Craft owner has to ensure that the transponder is turned on and working when the craft is operating within Singapore port waters.

Q4 Is the HARTS transponder required to be turned on when the craft is tied up at a jetty or wharf within Singapore port waters?

A4 No, however craft owner has to ensure that the transponder is turn on and working before proceeding out to sea.

Q5 Are harbour and pleasure craft that are already equipped with the IMO AIS transponders require to fit the HARTS transponder?

A5 No, the Authorities are also able to monitor the movements of craft that are fitted with the AIS transponders.

Q6 What are the key features of the HARTS transponder?

A6 The key features are:

- a) Automatic transmission of craft identity, position, course and speed in real time.
- b) Transponder and base plate must come in pair to ensure that every transponder unit deployed will operate only on the authorized harbour craft.
- c) 'Panic Button' on transponder for craft owner to alert the shore-based control centre in event of a security threat or emergency.

Q7 When is the “cut-off” date for the Government-funded HARTS transponder?

A7 The “cut-off” date is 31 May 2006. Owners of craft that are registered from 1 Jun 06 onwards will have to pay for the transponder and installation costs.

Q8 How will newly registered craft owner be affected from 1 Jun 2006 onwards?

A8 When an owner registers a craft from 1 Jun 2006 onwards, MPA’s One Stop Document Centre (OSDC) will advise him that his craft must be fitted with the transponder with effect from 1 Jan 07 and the cost of the transponder including installation is to be borne by the owner. OSDC would then proceed to license the craft. MPA would check to ensure that the craft is fitted with transponder before 1 Jan 2007. From 1 Jan 2007 onwards, craft must have a transponder fitted before they can be registered as a harbour and pleasure craft.

Q9 How much does the owner has to pay for the transponder when he registers his craft from 1 Jun 06 onwards?

A9 The cost of a portable transponder¹ is \$872 and \$910 for a fixed transponder². The cost, which includes standard installation cost, is subject to 5 % GST. The contractor, ST Electronics (Info-Comm systems) Pte Ltd is able to commit to this price because of advanced bulk order. MPA will invoice the craft owner after the purchase and installation of the transponder.

Q10 What is the operating cost of the HARTS transponders and who will pay for it?

A10 The annual operating cost per transponder is \$120 and craft owner will pay for it.

Q11 Who should the craft owner contact for assistance if the transponder is faulty, damaged or lost?

A11 They should contact Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) at Tel. No. 6773 7449, failing which, the alternative Tel. No. is 6325 2493.

Q12 What is the repair cost of a transponder?

A12 The repair cost of the transponder is covered by the annual S\$120 operating cost. If the fault is due to failure of electronic components, the faulty transponder will be replaced at no additional cost.

¹ The portable transponder is used for harbour craft which does not have a power supply onboard and is usually open-decked.

² The fixed transponder is used for harbour craft that has a power supply (generator or DC battery) and a proper cabin onboard.

Q13 Can the craft owner still goes out to sea if he discovers that the transponder is not functioning?

A13 The owner is required to contact Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) at 6773 7449, failing which, the alternative Tel. No. is 6325 2493 on the malfunction of the transponder and provide the following information.

- i) Owner / Informant's Name
- ii) NRIC / Passport No.
- iii) Contact No. (home & mobile)
- iv) Craft License No.
- v) Location of craft on departing
- vi) Expected departing time
- vii) Destination(s)
- viii) Expected returning time
- ix) Location of craft on returning

Approval for craft with a not functioning transponder to go out to sea is given in a case to case basis.

Q14 What is the penalty for failing to carry a HARTS transponder?

A14 Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with any of the conditions and restrictions subject to or upon which any license is issued under the MPA (Harbour Craft) Regulations and MPA (Pleasure Craft) Regulations shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$1,000 for every day or part thereof during which the offence continues after conviction. The offence may be compounded up to a maximum fine of \$500. In addition, the Port Master may cancel or suspend the license.

Q15 How long can the battery of a portable transponder last?

A15 Generally, the battery can last for 48 hours of continuous operation.

Q16 When a craft is sold, can the owner transfer the transponder to another craft?

A16 Yes, the owner has to inform MPA if he intends to transfer the transponder to another craft. Upon authorization by MPA, he has to make arrangement with the MPA appointed contractor to transfer the transponder. MPA will update the transponder identity number after the transponder has been transferred to the newly-registered craft.

Q.17 What is the purpose of the "Panic Button" in the HARTS system?

A.17 The "Panic Button" fitted as a component of the HARTS transponder installed on all powered harbour and pleasure craft is for the craft owner / operator to alert the shore-based control centre in the event of any **security threat** or **emergency** situation.

Q.19 What will be considered as misusing the HARTS system or the "Panic Button"?

A.19 No person shall improperly or without reasonable cause, activate (except in the event of an emergency or security threat), disable, meddle, damage or otherwise interfere with the HARTS transponder equipment and/or the "Panic Button".

Q.20 What are the penalties for misusing the "Panic Button"?

A.20 Pursuant to the relevant Regulations for Harbour Craft and Pleasure Craft, the Port Master will view any misuse of the HARTS "Panic Button" as a serious breach of the licensing conditions which may result in a cancellation or suspension of the harbour craft or the pleasure craft license.

Q21 What should craft owner do if the "Panic Button" was accidentally activated?

A.21 The owner is required to report immediately to Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) at Tel. No. 6773 7449, failing which, the alternative Tel. No. is 6325 2493.

Q22 How do I know whether the transponder is turned on and operational?

A.22 A build-in LED light (marked with the word STATUS) would first display red colour when the transponder is initially switched on. The same LED light would subsequently change to green colour when the transponder is operational. If the LED light is unlit or continues to display a red light after 2-3 minutes, it indicates that the transponder is faulty.

Q23 How do I know whether the battery of a portable transponder requires charging?

A.23 Another build-in LED light (marked with a symbol of a dry cell battery) will display red colour when the battery level of the portable transponder is low. Same LED light will display green colour during charging and, the LED light will go off when the battery is fully charged.

Q24 Where is the "Panic Button" located?

A.24 For the Fix Mounted Transponders (usually installed onboard harbour craft) the "Panic Button" is marked with the word "PANIC" and is usually located at the control panel near the steering wheel, on some harbour craft the "Panic Button" is hidden from view at a discrete location; as requested by the craft owner. As for the Portable Transponder, the "Panic Button" is located on the transponder casing and mark as "FOR EMERGENCY USE".