1) https://www.itu.int/dms_pubrec/itu-r/rec/m/R-REC-M.1371-5-201402-I!!PDF-E.pdf Excerpt:

Rec. ITU-R M.1371-5

115

3.3.3 Reference point for reported position and overall dimensions of ship

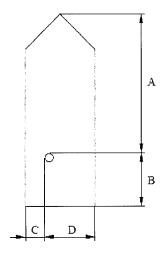


FIGURE 41 Number Distance Bit fields of bits (m)0-511 511 = 511 m or greater A Q Bit 21-Bit 29 0-511 511 = 511 m or greater В Bit 12-Bit 20 0-63; 63 = 63 m or greater C Bit 6-Bit 11 6 0-63; 63 = 63 m or greater D б Bit 0-Bit 5

The dimension A should be in the direction of the transmitted heading information (bow) Reference point of reported position not available, but dimensions of ship are available: A=C=0 and $B\neq 0$ and $D\neq 0$. Neither reference point of reported position nor dimensions of ship available: A=B=C=D=0 (= default). For use in the message table, A= most significant field, D= least significant field.

M.1371-41

2) USCG also provides an AIS Encoding Guide - http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pdf/AIS/AISGuide.pdf

Here's the Carla Maersk AIS data (provided by USCG) from a few minutes prior to the collision:

\g:1-3-9952,n:10617,s:D08MN-HG-

BAYBS1,c:1425921903*39\\xs:rOSCArchive,xc:1425921903*51**!SAVDM,2,1,6,B,53A77R02;tRtu`L;:20nuB0<58h 60I4E9<f2221I1bb@@4oI0IPCE@FH0PFH,0*25**

\g:2-3-9952,n:10618*1D**!SAVDM,2,2,6,B,888888888880,2*3B**

Here's the same data, with USCG data tags removed:

!SAVDM,2,1,6,B,53A77R02;tRtu`L;:20nuB0<58h60l4E9<f2221l1bb@@4ol0IPCE@FH0PFH,0*25 !SAVDM,2,2,6,B,8888888880,2*3B

Decoding those two lines of data confirms that Carla Maersk was broadcasting incorrect antenna reference position values.

Jones Rob

From:

Bowling Larry

Sent:

Tuesday, March 15, 2016 8:24 AM

To:

Mansell Douglas; Ehlers Andrew; Jones Rob; Turrell Morgan

Subject:

CARLA MAERSK AIS ANTENNAE POSITION TODAY. STILL SHOWING 13 METERS

FROM THE BOW.

M/T CARLA MAERSK OZGB2

Details

Name: M/T CARLA MAERSK

MMSI: 219269000 iMO Number: 9171503 Call Sign: OZGB2 Type of ship: Tanker

Cargo Type: CDC - Category B
Activity: Towing
Navigational Status: At anchor

Rate of Turn: 0 */minute

Speed Over Ground: 0.1 knots
Latitude: 22° 16' 57.47" N

Longitude: 114° 14' 51.88" E Course Over Ground: 222.3 °

True Heading: 64 °

Type of electronic fixing device: GPS

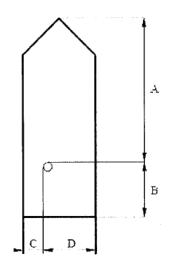
Estimated Time of Arrival: 2016-03-14 01:30 EDT

Maximum Present Static Draught: 7.1 meters

Vessel Length: 163 meters

Vessel Beam: 32 meters

Destination: HONG KONG Last Updated: 2016-03-13 20:02 EDT Reference Point for reported position and Dimensions of Ship:



Vessel Dimension A: Vessel Dimension B:

13 meters 170 meters 16 meters

Vessel Dimension C: 16 meters Vessel Dimension D: 16 meters



Douglas Mansell NTSB / RE-40 202-314-6634



The PPU uses AIS data. Carla Maersk was broadcasting an inaccurate AIS antenna location. The standard format for characterizing overall ship dimensions in AIS are defined in the following reference. The standard defines four dimensions – 'A' through 'D' – that represent the dimensions from Bow, Stern, Port, and Starboard.

Message 5: Ship static and voyage related data

Parm#	Parameter	Value	Description
01	Message ID	5	
02	Repeat indicator	0	No repeat (default)
03	User ID (MMSI)	219269000	
04	AIS version indicator	0	
05	IMO number	9171503	
Ð6	Call sign	OZGB2	
-07	Name	M/T CARLA MAERSK	
08	Type of ship & cargo	89	Tanker. No additional information
Đ9	Ship dimensions	A=13,B=170,C=16,D=16	
10	Type of EPFD	1	GPS
11	ETA Month	3	
12	ETA Day	15	
13	ETA Hour	20	
14	ETA Minute	0	
15	Max. static draught	10.2	
16	Destination	AMUAY BAY USA	
17	DTE (availability)	0	DTE available
18	Spare	0	

Number of messages processed € 40 (1) 4 (4)

Number of checksum failure sentences = 0



4.3 GPS antenna locations

Investigators measured the location of the AIS GPS antennae aboard the both vessels and reviewed the antenna drawings to ascertain their relative positions on the vessels.

- 4.3.1 Conti Peridot AIS GPS: 162.98 meters from bow, 7.92 meters right of centerline, 20.33 meters above WL, draft 9.243 meters.
- 4.3.2 Carla Maersk AIS GPS: 156.16 meters from bow, 7.32 meters right of centerline, 26.90 meters above WL, draft 10.2 meters.

