



I100 FAQ'S

Our products are designed to be easy to install and use. If however, you have a product question you can find a list of our most frequently asked questions below:

Number of FAQ's: 19

WHAT KIND OF AIS IS THE IDENTIFIER?

The Identifier is a unique self-contained AIS device based on Class B AIS technology. It is designed specifically for installation on very small vessels where connection of a power supply and installation of antennas is difficult. The Identifier incorporates a complete AIS transmitter, GPS receiver, rechargeable battery pack and antennas into a robust waterproof unit.

HOW DO I KNOW THE IDENTIFIER IS WORKING PROPERLY?

The LED indicator built into the Identifier will indicate the operating status of the Identifier.

WHAT IS AN MMSI NUMBER?

An MMSI (Maritime Mobile Service Identifier) is a nine digit number used to identify vessels and coast radio stations. The MMSI is similar to the phone number for the ships radio and can be used to place a radio call to a particular vessel. AIS systems also use MMSI numbers to identify vessels. With the exception of an AIS SART the same MMSI is used for all radio equipment on a vessel, so the AIS should be programmed with the same MMSI as the VHF radio.

Allocation of MMSI numbers is usually administered by a national maritime or radio authority. In the USA MMSI numbers for commercial vessels (or vessels making international voyages) are administered by the FCC. Recreational vessels can obtain an MMSI from BoatUS or Seatow.

HOW LONG DO I NEED TO CHARGE THE IDENTIFIER FOR A FULL CHARGE?

It takes up to 5 hours to fully charge the Identifier. When the battery is fully charged, the LED status light on the front of the unit will be lit solid red.

HOW DO I RESET AN MMSI NUMBER ON THE IDENTIFIER?

Once the user sets the MMSI number of the identifier, it cannot be reset by using the software that is used to configure it. If you have an Identifier that needs to have its MMSI number changed/reset, then please contact your dealer for advice on how to have this done.

HOW DO I GET AN MMSI NUMBER?

Allocation of MMSI numbers is usually administered by a national maritime or radio authority. In the USA MMSI numbers for commercial vessels (or vessels making international voyages) are administered by the FCC. Recreational vessels can obtain an MMSI from BoatUS or Seatow.

HOW LONG DOES THE INTERNAL BATTERY LAST FOR?

The Identifier contains a high capacity lithium-ion battery. The Identifier can operate for up to 6 days from the battery when configured to report position every 5 minutes.

HOW DOES THE IDENTIFIER WORK?

The Identifier contains an AIS transmitter, GPS receiver, rechargeable battery and antennas. When fully charged the Identifier can transmit vessel position every 5 minutes for up to 6 days. The Identifier is switched on by inserting it into the smart vessel bracket, and switched off by removing it from the smart vessel bracket.

When switched on the Identifier gets accurate position information from the built in GPS receiver and combines this with vessel information entered during configuration before transmitting AIS messages. The Identifier is designed to use very little power between transmissions to give the 6 day operating life.

The Identifier is recharged by placing it in the supplied charging dock. A complete charge takes around four hours.

IS THE IDENTIFIER WATERPROOF?

Yes – the Identifier is completely waterproof and has an IPx7 rating. This means it has been tested for immersion at a depth of 1m for 30 minutes.

HOW DO I PROGRAM THE IDENTIFIER WITH VESSEL INFORMATION?

The Identifier needs to be programmed with your vessel information before it can be used. You can program it by connecting it to a PC or laptop USB port using the optional configuration dock. A Windows based application called 'quickAIS' is supplied with the Identifier and includes all configuration options and settings.

WHY CAN'T MY IDENTIFIER GET ANY GPS FIX?

The Identifier needs a clear view of the sky overhead for GPS signal reception. The Identifier must be mounted in a vertical orientation for the GPS antenna to work. The first time the Identifier is used it can take up to 12 minutes for the GPS to lock. During this time the internal GPS receiver is synchronising the latest GPS time settings. The next time the Identifier is activated the GPS will lock within a minute.

If your Identifier can't get a GPS fix try moving it to an alternate location. If this is the first time you've used the Identifier please allow up to 12 minutes for the GPS to fix position.

WHERE IS THE BEST PLACE TO INSTALL THE IDENTIFIER?

With the hundreds of different vessel types and configurations on the water, it's hard to give exact examples of how an Identifier should be installed, but if you consider some basic points, then you should be able to ensure a good standard of performance from the installed (and correctly configured and charged) unit.

1 – Is the unit accessible? Unit must be easy to access, with the “ Window” in the Bracket easy to view.

2 – Is the unit secure? Make sure the unit is firmly attached to the vessel using the fixing kit and bracket provided.

3 – Is it clear from any obstructions? Make sure that the unit is clear of obstructions over and around the Identifier to ensure good GPS reception and good VHF signal propagation.

4 – Is it installed at a suitable height? The Identifier bracket should be mounted to a non-metallic, vertical pole with the status indicator clearly visible. It should only be mounted vertically and ideally should be at least 2m above sea-level.. Installing higher will ensure better range, but remember to balance this with the need to be able to gain easy access to the unit.

To help you with ideas for how to install the Identifier on different vessel types, please see the pictures below for some good installation examples.





WHAT INSTALLATION FACTORS WILL AFFECT BATTERY LIFE AND PERFORMANCE OF THE IDENTIFIER?

We're occasionally asked why individual Identifiers under test in the field struggle to achieve the stated 5 day battery life listed in our product literature. If you have an Identifier that is not achieving the full 5 day operation then we'd suggest that you consider/check all of the following:

1 – Installation. Our experience has shown that this is the single biggest contributory factor to poor battery performance. If units are not installed as per the instructions/advice given on the Quick Start Guide, then the Identifier will struggle to operate correctly. Below is an example of a poor installation.

This units battery was drained quickly as the Identifier itself was having to work harder in order to receive a GPS fix (The GPS antenna is located mid-way along the internal PCA, roughly to the right of where the SOS button is located.) The metal railing of this vessel acted to inhibit the ability of the antenna to receive a signal.

2 – Battery Charge. Please ensure that the unit receives a full charge prior to use. When correctly inserted into a charging dock, the LED on the front of the Identifier will flash once every second. When charging is complete the status indicator will remain continuously illuminated. It should take no longer than 5 hours for the Identifier to receive a full charge.

3 – Configuration. The default setup for the Identifier is for it to transmit once every 5 minutes. Provided the Identifier is correctly installed, is fully charged and configuration of TX rate is not altered from default, then it should operate 5 days on a single charge. It is possible to alter the TX rate of the identifier with configuration software, but doing so will reduce the battery life of the Identifier.

CAN I POWER THE IDENTIFIER FROM MY VESSEL'S POWER SUPPLY?

Yes – an optional power accessory is available which allows the Identifier to be permanently powered from a 12V or 24V on board supply. Please contact your dealer for more information about this accessory.

CAN I CONNECT AN IDENTIFIER TO A PC/LAPTOP?

The Identifier can be connected to a PC or Laptop for configuration with vessel information, however the Identifier can't be interfaced with navigation software as it doesn't receive AIS messages from other ships.

CAN I CONNECT AN IDENTIFIER TO A CHARTPLOTTER?

No – the Identifier doesn't receive AIS messages from other ships, so it does not have a connection for a chart plotter.

WHAT IS THE RANGE OF THE IDENTIFIER?

The range of the Identifier is depends on the height at which it is installed, and the height of the receiving antenna. Weather and sea and atmospheric conditions also have an effect on the range. Typically the Identifier has a range in excess of 10 nautical miles, but much greater ranges can be achieved depending on the height of a receiving antenna

WHAT DO THE DIFFERENT LEDS MEAN?

The Identifier uses a simple LED status indicator that will show the user the current operating status of the Identifier unit.

While active in the vessel bracket, the status indicator shows the current operating state of the Identifier unit. The status indicator flashes every 5 seconds. The number of flashes indicates the status conditions defined in the table below. The key status indications are also shown in the table below.

Number of flashes	Status
1	Identifier is active and operating normally
2	Low battery warning, Identifier continues to operate until battery is exhausted
3	Error condition - please contact your dealer for support
4	Identifier is mounted in the wrong vessel bracket, Identifier continues to operate as normal
5	Waiting for GPS fix or no GPS fix. If this condition persists for more than a few minutes relocate the Identifier to a location with a clear sky view.
6	Transmit timeout - Identifier is unable to transmit due to AIS network congestion
7	No MMSI programmed. The Identifier is unable to transmit because no MMSI has been configured.

When the unit is operating in "SOS Mode", then the LED Status light will flash continuously to indicate that the Identifier is transmitting a Safety Related Message.

While charging, the status indicator flashes on and off every second. When charging is complete the status indicator will remain continuously illuminated.

A charging error is indicated by continuous rapid flashes of the status indicator. The most likely cause of a charging error is high temperature. The charger will not operate above 40°C for safety reasons. If any other LED status indications are given, or if the LED status indicator does not light up after the unit has been fully charged, then please contact support for assistance.

WHERE SHOULD I INSTALL THE IDENTIFIER?

The Identifier should be installed in an outdoor location where it can be accessed in order to remove it for recharging. It should be installed where there is a clear view of the sky for optimum GPS performance and battery life, and away from any metal structures for optimum AIS range.

If you are unable to find the answer to your question please complete the form at the bottom of our contact page and one of our customer representatives will contact you within one (1) working day.