

SAFETY BULLETIN 02 OF 2019:

Small Craft – Potential GPS issues

This Safety Bulletin is issued following the issue on 19th February 2019 by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) of “Safety Bulletin 13 - GPS Week Number Rollover”. A link to the MCA Bulletin is provided below.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/780743/MSF5029_R0516_GPS_Week_Number_Rollover.pdf;

Operators that use the Global Positioning System (GPS) for both position and UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) should be aware of a potential issue on 6th April 2019 when the GPS week number rolls over. (NB: Not all products roll over on the same date due to manufacturers firmware implementation)

Stand alone GPS receivers and systems using GPS chips, particularly those which were installed before September 1999 or have not had regular firmware updates, could produce data that is 19.7 years earlier or later than the correct time causing errors in both position and time.

Owners are advised that they are responsible for the correct operation and maintenance of their equipment and should contact the manufacturer for advice. They are strongly advised to take the following actions:

- 1) Ensure that all recent firmware updates are completed
- 2) Check with your GPS Manufacturer for further information on GPS dependent equipment and identify what, if any, action is needed by the operator;
- 3) Identify what effect this could have on your operations with respect to Position Navigation and timing solutions and consequences were failure to occur.
- 4) Monitor and, where possible, verify their equipment for any errors.

22nd February 2019
