

PRODUCT ADVISORY NOTICE

PAN/23-01

Issue 01

Date: March 2023

Product Line: VisionMaster FT

Hardware: Radar, ECDIS and TotalWatch

Purpose

This notice advises of a case on some VisionMaster FT systems where AIS target vectors may not be drawn as intended when relative vector mode is selected.

Who is affected by this notice?

Customers with VisionMaster FT systems fitted with software versions 15.0 to 15.2 inclusive. Please note that VisionMaster Net systems are not affected.

Description of the Issue

VisionMaster FT provides two modes for the display of AIS target vectors: true and relative. On software versions 15.0 to 15.2 only, AIS target vectors may not be drawn as intended when relative vector mode is selected. Affected systems draw the relative AIS target vectors in the correct direction but the length of the vector is incorrect.

Relative vectors are of most relevance to the task of Collision Avoidance and the extent to which mariners are impacted by this issue depends on their use of AIS target data. In general, tracked targets, as opposed to AIS targets, are used for Collision Avoidance, with Administrations giving advice such as:

the activated AIS target symbol and the alphanumeric AIS target data ... should be treated with extreme caution and only used for enhancing situation awareness and not for collision avoidance decision-making.¹

For the avoidance of any doubt, tracked target vectors (both True and Relative) are drawn as intended, True AIS target vectors are drawn as intended and the CPA/TCPA readout of the AIS targets is as intended.

Recommended Action

If you are affected by this notice, Sperry Marine advises the following:

- VisionMaster FT Radars, Chart Radars and TotalWatch systems are strongly recommended to upgrade to software version 15.3 released in March 2023.
- Mariners using VisionMaster FT ECDIS and ECDIS with Radar Overlay should be aware of the issue and should use AIS target vectors to enhance situation awareness and not for collision avoidance decision-making. These systems may also be upgraded to software version 15.3.
- Mariners can select the target display priority on the Target Display Menu. Select "Tracked Priority" to give Tracked Targets priority over AIS targets.

The present Product Advisory Notice shall under no circumstances be construed as an acknowledgement of responsibility of any sort from Sperry Marine.

Reference can also be made to IMO Resolution A.1106(29) 'Revised Guidelines For The Onboard Operational Use Of Shipborne Automatic Identification Systems (AIS)'.

¹ UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency [MGN 324 \(M+F\) Amendment 2 Navigation: watchkeeping safety](#)