

Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System
U.S. Coast Guard



Press Release

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AMVER SHIPS SEARCH FOR AIR FRANCE SURVIVORS

NEW YORK – Four Amver participating commercial ships have been diverted by rescue authorities to search the Atlantic Ocean for any signs of Air France Flight 447. United States Coast Guard search and rescue personnel provided the Amver data to local authorities as efforts to locate survivors or critical aircraft components intensified Tuesday, June 3.

Combining over 25 years of participation in the Amver system, the commercial ships Stolt Inspiration, Jo Cedar, Lexa Maersk, and UAL Texas were reported by Brazilian media to be searching a vast stretch of Atlantic Ocean for any signs of the missing Airbus A330.

Amver, sponsored by the United States Coast Guard, is a unique, computer-based, and voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to persons in distress at sea.

While typically used to assist mariners in distress, Amver vessels may be called upon to search for any emergency at sea. Amver works closely with the International Maritime Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization to help search and rescue personnel find the best resources to assist in search operations.

With Amver, rescue coordinators can identify participating ships in the area of distress and divert the best-suited ship or ships to respond. Prior to sailing, participating ships send a sail plan to the Amver computer center. Vessels then report every 48 hours until arriving at their port of call. This data is able to project the position of each ship at any point during its voyage. In an emergency, any rescue coordination center can request this data to determine the relative position of Amver ships near the distress location. On any given day there are over 3,500 ships available to carry out search and rescue services. Visit <http://www.amver.com> to learn more about this unique worldwide search and rescue system. Additional links are available on the Amver blog at <http://www.amveruscg.blogspot.com>.

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