GPS Roll over
6 & 7 April 2019

In a notice of 12 March IALA informed its members that the GPS Week Number will be rolling over on 6 April. It is understood that this could lead to errors in both GPS position and time for some GPS receivers, or systems such as AIS, using GPS. This should not affect newer equipment, or equipment that has had regular firmware updates from the manufacturer. While the date of the rollover is identified as 6 April 2019, some equipment may rollover on a different date depending on the implementation in the manufacturer’s firmware. Most manufacturers are aware of the rollover and have provided information on their websites.

In preparation for the rollover, many administrations are providing guidance.

Owners of equipment with GPS are advised to:

- Make sure all recent firmware updates are completed.
- Check with your GPS manufacturer for further information on GPS-dependent equipment and identify what action, if any is, required by the operator.
- Identify what effect this could have on your current operations, PNT (position, navigation and timing) solutions and potential issues if failure occurred.
- Operators of such equipment should monitor and, wherever possible, verify their equipment for any errors.

In practical terms – coastal/port authorities may wish to:

- Confirm equipment that includes GPS (e.g AIS base stations) are updated and perform correctly before and after the event.
- Check that any GPS-enabled/connected equipment is reading correct time/date before and after the event (there may be a need to examine data logs)
- Advise personnel dealing with equipment that make use of GPS, including VTS Personnel and AtoN personnel, noting the possible errors that may be introduced.

Finally, IALA has requested feedback on any issues identified regarding the GPS rollover event.