

Tim Pannone, SO-NS and BC-PNP, has been working with National to introduce the Excel version of the 7054 PATON reporting spreadsheet version used by D1NR. Division 23 will be using this version as a trial. A lot of the following intro was borrowed from Tim.

The form has Macros embedded in it and can be opened in Microsoft Excel 2003 and 2007 and Sun Oracle OpenOffice.org 3.0 (FREE to download <http://www.openoffice.org/>) with no problems, if their Macro security settings are lowered from High to Medium.

The basic format is a lot like the PDF version, but has spaces for additional information. Most notably:

- Old Section III - Aid Owner, Identification and Characteristics has been broken down into three separate sections.
- Section 4 - Horizontal and Vertical Locations has the biggest changes, since we want to know more about the equipment AVs are using to make their verification or discrepancy reports.
- Section 6 (old Section IV) requires identification of CRITICAL, URGENT, and ROUTINE discrepancies, and has added documentation checks.
- A new section, Section 7, has been added for the AV to enter any information gathered about a "non-permitted" aid to navigation. For the time being, it is suggested we not focus on this section without better guidance from the DSO-NS regarding contact with the public.

This new form goes along with the material found in NS-AN02 – Federal Short Range Aids to Navigation Study Guide located on the National NS website. (A link to the National NS website can be found on the Division 23 website and F23-01 website.) The National NS staff is working on getting this study guide approved as the replacement to the 2003 National Aids to Navigation and Chart Updating Study Guide.

The new form will improve the quality of the information currently provide to the USCG aids to navigation commands. The paperwork associated with reporting verifications and discrepancies has become more complicated and it seems to take longer to properly complete the 7054 than the time spent on the water actually looking at the aid. However, if we want the gold-side to respect the work we do and take our reports seriously, then we must consistently provide them with accurate, meaningful data.

The use of this new form is not mandatory. Those submitting the old PDF paper version should include as much of the information as requested on the new form as possible.

Regards,

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