The Safety Equipment for Small-Size Vessel

Chun-Kwan Park*

Abstract These days as there are a growing vessel volume in the coastal area, the marine accidents has being increased. IMO recommend that all vessels have to be equipped with the safety equipments mandatorily for the safety navigation. Almost medium and large size vessels are equipped with the safety navigational equipments, But many small size vessels are not equipped with those ones because of its owner’s financial hardship or indifference. So for the safety of small size vessels in the coastal area, the marine accidents such as stranding, sinking, collision, and so on, have to be protected in advance or the occurred accidents has to be treated quickly. In this paper, the safety equipment for small size vessels having these functions has been developed. This equipment can guarantee the safety of small size vessels in defenseless state considerably by displaying these states in seamen’s Smart phone or the cheap dedicated terminal and also informing the control center and nearby other vessels of these states.

Key Words : Beacon, Costal, IMO, Safety, Vessel, VTS

I. Introduction

In the coastal area, there are the high accidents rate for the small–size vessels. The existing safe navigational systems have been developed for just the large–scale vessels. So the price of this system is so high that it is difficult for the small–size vessels to equip with this system. This is way these vessels have no the safety management system and their owners have no money enough to equip with the vessel’s safe navigational system[1][2]

The price of the newest navigational systems such as AIS and e-navigation system are so high that the destitute owners of small–size vessels can’t install

Received: 24 December, 2016 / Revised: 2 March, 2017 / Accepted: 7 April, 2017
The Safety Equipment for Small-Size Vessel

These equipments except for being installed mandatorily by the legislate.

Many kind of equipments and services in vessels and VTS (Vessel Transportation Station) center are getting better from day to day due to IT technologies. Vessels that are equipped with those ones can take full advantage of high-quality services from these ones, But vessels that are not equipped with those ones can’t receive any service. But there are people in both types of vessels, and their life is equally very important.

Lately IMO has established E-Navigation as standard for the safety and security of vessels and the protection of marine environment. If all vessels installed the equipments mandatorily made according to this standard, it is possible for large size vessels to install those equipments, but it is not possible for small-size vessels to install those because of its owner’s financial difficult or ignorance. So small-size vessels are exposed to the diverse marine accidents such as stranding, sinking, collision, and so on, and then can’t protect the accidents or treat the occurred accidents efficiently.

In this paper, for the safety of small-size vessels in the coastal area, the possible accidents such as stranding, sinking, collision, and so on are displayed in seamen’s Smart phone or the cheap dedicated terminal, and then also the marine accidents can be prevented in advance or the occurred accidents can be treated quickly by informing the control center and nearby other vessels of this information. The safety of small-size vessels in the defenceless state can be guaranteed considerably through this equipment.

II. The safety management system for small-size vessel in the costal area

Fig 1 shows one of the several examples of vessel safety management system. Vessels are connected to the mobile network through the base station. The safety monitoring unit of the vessel collects the vessel’s state information and detects the dangerous elements such as the collision with the neighborhood vessels. These information is transferred to the control center and the units in vessel such as crew’s Smart Phone and the dedicated terminal through the mobile network. Vessels inform the control center of its own location, speed and direction periodically.

The control center supervises the safety navigation state by receiving the vessel’s state information from many vessel’s state monitoring units and supervises and then transfers the navigation command and information to the vessels.

Fig. 1. The overall configuration for safety management system in the coastal area

Fig 2 shows vessels such as fishing boat, passenger ship, leasure boat, freighter, and so on operating in the costal area. The safety management system for vessel in the coastal area has to include the vessel state monitoring unit, the control center, the beacon signal receiver. The monitoring unit for vessel’s state can detect if the vessel is operating safely or not. This unit monitors the shock added to vessel, the slope size and period of three axis direction, the location information based on the satellite navigation unit, and the neighborhood vessel and marine structure based on the wireless beacon transceiver. This also issues alarm by
deciding the collision and the vessel’s own dangerous state through these data.

The beacon transmitter in the vessel and the marine structure sends its own location, and the vessel’s own emergency situation through the wireless interface. The beacon receiver in the vessel can recognize their location and the vessel’s emergency situation by receiving the beacon signals that the vessel and the marine structure send. In this configuration, the beacon signals can be exchanged among vessels, and between vessel and marine structure without the mobile network.

III. Implementation of safety equipment for small-size vessel

In the coastal area, many small-size vessels are not equipped with the safety navigation equipments because of its owner’s financial hardship or their indifference. So it is desirable to provide them with these equipments in the inexpensive cost. Fig 3 shows the block diagram of safety equipment for the small-size vessel. This equipment consists of sensors for navigation, GPS/DGPS, Beacon signal transceiver, AIS signal receiver, ship safety control function, and wireless interface.

If the vessel received the beacon signals from other objective, it calculate the direction and speed of the objectives that transmitted the beacon signals. Based on this information this equipment decides the possibility and estimated time of collision between the objectives that transmitted the beacon signal and the ship that received the beacon signal.

---

Fig 2. the vessels operating in the costal area
그림 2. 해안 영역에서 운항 중인 선박

Fig 3. The block diagram of the vessel safety equipment
그림 3. 선박 안전장치의 블록도

Fig 4. Beacon Data format
그림 4. 비콘 데이터 형식

In this format, beacon ID is identification for beacon transmitter. Type is the structure type transmitting the beacon signals, such as ship, fixed artificial structure, mobile artificial structure, fixed natural structure, and so on. Class is the detail for type such as size, direction, and so on. Latitude and Longitude is the position information of Beacon transmitter.
Fig 5 shows the flow chart for vessel safety equipment. This equipment calculates the direction and speed of the objectives based on the beacon signals received from other objective if there can be the possibility for collision. This equipment performs the following operation:

1. Receive information for location, speed, size, direction, and class.
2. Display vessel's location.
3. Calculate size and distance.
4. Indicate location for objective.
5. Determine if the objective is within threshold size.
6. Determine if the objective is within threshold distance.
7. Display danger indication for the objective.
8. Display danger indication for the vessel.
9. Determine if the danger is within threshold level.
10. Display warning signal and sound.

If the estimated time of collision is smaller than the assigned time1 (Tw) and larger than the assigned time2 (Ta), a warning will be issued. If the estimated time of collision is smaller than the assigned time2 (Ta), an alarm signal will be issued. If the alarm signal lasts for the assigned time, the ship informs other vessels of this situation through the beacon signal including this alarm information.

Fig 6 shows the safety equipment for small-size vessel. This equipment includes GPS, sensors for vessel's state, AIS receiver, beacon signal transceiver, and the wireless interface. This system can be operated in two modes such as simulation and GPS. This system is assigned to operate in GPS mode. This mode displays the vessel's location on the window of this equipment after receiving AIS signals from other vessels.

The function to gather information about the vessel's state gathers the vessel's diverse state information through the diverse sensors installed in the vessel and transfer this information to the vessel's safety control function.

This information includes the vessel's shaking information such as roll, pitch, and yaw and the acceleration information of x, y, and z axis direction to detect the impulse added to the vessel and the state information of engine and navigation units and the flooding information.

Fig 7 shows the vessel state. This includes Pitch, Roll, and Yaw. This motion for vessel can be detected by Gyro and three axis accelerometer. Pitch, Roll, and Yaw value can be detected from Gyro sensor. Three axis accelerometer is used to detect the collision and shock of vessel.
Fig 8 indicates the vessel’s own state according to Fig 7. In Fig 8, a) shows the rolling state for the vessel, and b) shows the pitching state for the vessel. The possibility for vessel accidents, such as stranding, sinking can be detected. So the vessel can cope with the accidents.

Detected neighbors vessels and objectives are displayed with their distance. In this case, Ships and fixed obstacles are displayed differently.

When neighbor beacon located in 50 meters area, change the mark of neighbor vessel’s color red on the display. When collision with neighbor ship is estimated in 10 second by calculation of speed & direction.

The mark of neighbor vessels start to blinking once a second. When estimated collision time is getting closed to zero, then blinking cycle time is getting shorter. When mark of neighbor is blinking, then beep alarm sound with same blinking cycle is generated. Volume of Beep alarm sound is getting bigger, when blinking cycle is getting shorter.

### IV. Conclusion

The existing safety navigational systems have been developed for just the large-scale vessels. So the price of this system is so high that it is difficult for the medium/small-size vessels to equip with this system. In this paper, the inexpensive safety management equipment for the small-size vessel in the coastal area has been developed. So for the safety of small size vessels in the coastal area, the marine accidents such as stranding, sinking, collision, and so on, can be protected in advance or the occurred accidents can be treated quickly. This equipment can guarantee the safety of small size vessels in defenseless state considerably.

### References


DOI: https://doi.org/10.1017/s0373463313000519.

DOI: https://doi.org/10.12716/1001.07.01.14.

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1109/sectech.2014.11.