

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



Press Release

Date: December 15, 2009

Contact: Benjamin Strong
(212) 669-7762 office
(917)545-6676 mobile
benjamin.m.strong@uscg.mil

Amver container ship assists fishing vessel

NEW YORK – The container ship ACX Diamond was diverted by United States Coast Guard rescue authorities to assist a disabled fishing vessel approximately 100 miles northwest of the island of Ponape on October 4, 2009.

The ACX Diamond, a Singapore flagged container ship, was on a voyage from New Zealand to Tokyo when rescue authorities from the United States Coast Guard rescue coordination center in Guam contacted it about a distress beacon approximately 136 miles from their location. The Diamond was diverted because it participates in the Amver search and rescue system. It enrolled in July, 2009.

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.

Captain Carino, master of the Diamond, ordered the crew to sail to the distress location and prepare for rescue operations. After eight hours the Diamond arrived alongside the fishing vessel NFC Chuuk dead in the water. “We had been adrift for four days with main engine troubles and no spare parts,” said Fabian Maithay, Captain of the NFC Chuuk.

After coming alongside the Chuuk, Captain Carino’s crew determined repairs were impossible and towed the vessel towards the FSS Independence which had been dispatched by rescue authorities to complete the rescue.

-more-

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 3,700 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.

Low resolution photos are available here:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amver/4176405401/in/set-72157622856607089/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amver/4176405433/in/set-72157622856607089/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amver/4177164586/in/set-72157622856607089/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amver/4177164602/in/set-72157622856607089/>

Photo credit: Crew of the M/V ACX Diamond

###