Concerning the “Destination Field” in Automatic Identification System (AIS) messages,

- The method of entering data is established along with IMO’s guidance.
- Entering of data according to the newly established entry method is mandatory.

**<Applicable Vessels>**

Vessels carrying AIS (vessels exempted from the obligation to operate AIS at all times are excluded)

As for the way to input in the destination field in AIS message, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has recommended using UN/LOCODE, five-letter codes (combination of 2-letter code for country name and 3-letter code of location name) to represent certain locations all over the world. The newly established method is based on this IMO’s recommendation.

**<Entry Method>**

Destination Field in AIS Message

- A code representing a destination port (2-letter code for a country, 1-letter for a blank space and 3-letter code for a port)
- A code representing a course in a destination port (1-or-2-letter code for a berth, etc)
- A code representing other necessary information (e.g. routes to pass through, etc.)

Enter appropriate codes according to the method shown above. Do not forget to enter certain symbols like “>”, “/”, etc.

**Entry Rules for the Destination Port**

- When the destination port is a Japanese port governed by the Act on Port Regulations, enter the code as stipulated anew (all codes are described in booklets (Note 1)).
- When the destination port is an overseas port, enter the UN/LOCODE (Example: “US SFO” for San Francisco in the United States).
- If the destination port does not have the UN/LOCODE, or if the UN/LOCODE of the destination port is unknown, enter a general English name following “=".
- When the port name of the destination port is unknown, enter “?? ???” instead of the UN/LOCODE.

Information about the destination allows vessels to predict each other’s courses, which will reduce the risk of collision and thus enhance the safety. So do not forget to renew the entry for each voyage and make sure that you enter the correct codes. Entry should be made as soon as possible. It is highly recommended to finish it before you start your voyage.

**NOTE**

Incorrect entries may increase the risk of dangerous situations.
<Entry Examples>

**Example 1**

For the code ☐, enter the symbol of the signal flags (excluding the substitute signals) required by the Act on Port Regulations to show the course in the destination port.

> JP MIZ TS

**Example 2**

> JP MIZ OFF

**Example 3**

> JP YOK K/NNX

<Example of Mizushima Port>

A  Sailing heading for the berthing facility between West Public -2.6m Landing Place and Nippon Petroleum Refining Pier.
B  Sailing heading for the berthing facility between East Public Landing Place and Japan Energy Pier or Yobimatsu Waterway.
C  Sailing heading for the berthing facility between Asahi Kasei C7 Pier and Taiheiyo Cement Pier.
D  Sailing heading for the berthing facility between JFE Kurashiki A Quay and JFE Kurashiki Coal Loading Pier.
TH Sailing heading for the berthing facility along Takahashi Kawa Waterway or in the Otoshima.
TS Sailing heading for the berthing facility in the Tamashima area (excluding Otoshima).
FM Sailing heading for the southern sea area of JFE (anchorages A to E).
FT Sailing heading for the southern sea area of Tamashima Harbor Island (anchorages F to P).
XX Purposes other than stated above Course in the port.

<Example of codes in the Booklet>

List of Port Codes (Examples of West-Okayama)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Port Code</th>
<th>Port Name</th>
<th>Port Prefecture</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ KOTOURA OKAYAMA</td>
<td>KJT</td>
<td>☐ MIZUSHIMA OKAYAMA</td>
<td>☐ MIZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ AJNO OKAYAMA</td>
<td>AJN</td>
<td>☐ KASAOKA OKAYAMA</td>
<td>☐ KSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ SHMOTSUI OKAYAMA</td>
<td>STI</td>
<td>☐ FUKUYAMA HOSHIMA</td>
<td>☐ FKY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Note) JCG has prepared booklets describing all codes for the applicable ports in Japan. See JCG's website http://www.kaiho.mlit.go.jp/syoukai/soshiki/toudai/navigation-safety/index.htm

References:
Mizushima Coast Guard Office  TEL : 086-444-2967
URL http://www.kaiho.mlit.go.jp/06kanku/mizushima/