

Frequency of data transfer

Depending on logger type, CSB data will be transferred at varying intervals. For first-generation loggers like the YDVR, the data transfer timing depends on a few variables. First, the amount of onboard storage (SD card size) will determine how much data can be stored at one time before the logger is full. Cards larger than 32 GB are not recommended, as they have been associated with errors, and a 32 GB card typically lasts between six months and a year under normal use.

Another variable to consider is the amount of data being saved at a time. A YDVR logger is designed to record any signals coming across the NMEA backbone. On larger vessels such as yachts or cruise ships, this could include things like greywater storage capacity, fuel load, and other kinds of information that are not relevant for CSB. As a result, these loggers can fill up more quickly. If working with a YDVR logger specifically, the “Example Configuration File” in the Templates section can be used to avoid recording some of these unnecessary data streams. For more details, please refer to the Optional Test Submission page.

How frequently your organization wants to maintain contact with program participants may also be a determining factor in how often data is offloaded. Requesting data is a great way to maintain contact with a vessel, and thus it may be helpful to request more regular data drops. For example, the International SeaKeepers Society tends to request data on a quarterly basis as a way of maintaining consistent contact with vessels.

Next-generation loggers, including the WIBL and OFM Mussel Kit, offer more flexibility. These devices can transfer data via Wi-Fi or cellular networks, meaning data is being transmitted in near-real-time. The WIBL will only transmit when the Wi-Fi signal is within range of the device, but on a vessel with star-link this should be fairly continuous. With a cellular connection, this data stream should be continuous if it is within cell-tower range. Each device has onboard storage capacity for several months’ worth of data. These loggers do not require contact with the vessel beyond initial setup, which creates a more hands-off experience for both the CSB program managers and the participating vessels.

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