

Official resource

Autopilot, Heading, and Steering Interface Handover Record

SLUG	autopilot-heading-and-steering-interface-handover-record
SUMMARY	Printable handover record for yacht autopilot operation, heading and steering interfaces, planned maintenance, failure points, fallback modes, and test evidence.
RESOURCE TYPE	Worksheet
RESOURCE AREA	Operational templates
INTENDED AUDIENCE	ETOs, bridge officers, captains, yacht managers, bridge electronics providers
ESTIMATED USE MINUTES	25
DOCUMENT LABEL	Download PDF
PDF	autopilot-heading-and-steering-interface-handover-record-v1-0.pdf
VERSION	1.0
PUBLICATION STATUS	Published resource archive
IMPORTANT NOTE	This resource is practical operational guidance. It does not replace SOLAS, flag-state requirements, class requirements, the vessel SMS, bridge procedures, steering-gear instructions, manufacturer manuals, approved service-provider instructions, or the authority of the Master and responsible officers onboard.

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System identity

- Autopilot or heading-control system identified.
- Steering interface identified.
- Bridge suite or INS/IBS interface identified where applicable.
- Track-control capability recorded as fitted, not fitted, disabled, unapproved or not used.
- Firmware or software baseline recorded.
- Service provider and vendor contacts recorded.

Sensor and data sources

- Primary heading source recorded.
- Fallback heading source recorded.
- Position source recorded where used.
- Speed source recorded where used.
- Rudder feedback source recorded.
- Rate-of-turn source recorded where used.
- ECDIS route or track data interface recorded where applicable.
- Source-loss alarm or indication recorded.

Control authority

- Main helm control method recorded.
- Autopilot control method recorded.
- Wing-station control method recorded where fitted.
- Joystick or manoeuvring control boundary recorded where fitted.
- Emergency steering or local steering reference recorded.
- Control-transfer indication checked.
- Manual takeover or disengagement method checked.

Test evidence

- Normal engage and disengage tested.
- Port and starboard heading changes tested.
- Manual steering recovery tested.
- Source selection or source-loss behaviour tested where safe.
- Control transfer between stations tested where safe.
- Bridge alert or alarm behaviour recorded.
- Known limitations or untested conditions recorded.
- Sea-trial or alongside-test conditions recorded.

Maintenance and failure review

- Planned maintenance task owner recorded.
- Heading-source maintenance requirement reviewed.
- Rudder feedback calibration or plausibility check recorded.
- Steering gear interface and hand-steering behaviour reviewed.
- Power supply, cabling and connector condition checked where accessible.
- Software, firmware or configuration backup status recorded.
- Recent failures, alarms or crew reports reviewed.
- Common rectification path agreed for heading, feedback, steering response and mode faults.

Fallback and handover

- Degraded-mode summary written for bridge team.
- Emergency steering procedure location recorded.
- Crew familiarisation completed.
- Vendor boundary and support path confirmed.
- Bridge records updated.
- Captain or responsible officer acknowledgement recorded.