



MAILCALL

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Recently, we have experienced cases of the Autoset suddenly developing a mind of it's own and doing strange things with the tabs. In several cases, we found corrosion in the wiring which is certainly undesirable and could have been the problem. In two, and maybe three cases, the Autoset was installed on 60+ foot offshore fishing vessels equipped with high powered, low frequency marine band, transceivers. In the transmitting mode, radiation was getting into the Autoset power / logic section in the white box, through the antenna effect of the 4 conductor interconnect cable between the power / logic module and the keypad. This energy could be sufficient to disrupt the software resulting in erratic operation. So far, in such cases, no permanent damage is done, so at power off and back on, the built in software reset routine restores the software scramble and all is well.

To address this situation, we recommend the following: When installing the Autoset on vessels equipped with high powered, low frequency marine transceivers, keep the Autoset keypad to module wiring away from the transceiver and its antenna and use a shielded 4 conductor interconnect cable. In the power / logic module chassis, install a stud which can be grounded to the vessel and to which the cable shield can be connected. At the keypad end, leave the shield exposed but NOT connect to the keypad or grounded. We will add this note to the Autoset manual.

If anyone knows of an Autoset which had misbehaved when exposed to radio transmission radiation and then cured itself at power off, let us know so we can study the case.

Of the 430 Autosets in service, a dozen or so have been compromised from corrosion with only a few confirmed failures so the product continues to serve well.

More next week but let us hear from you in the meantime. Use mailcall@lectrotab.com for your reply. Our responses will continue to be very quick!

Best Regards,

L. Jeremy Crews
President