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AIS Transponder Comparison Guide

Product	AIS type	NMEA 0183	NMEA 2000	USB	Wi-Fi	Mobile app support	SD card logger	VHF antenna splitter	GPS antenna bundled	NMEA multiplexing	Integrated screen	IP rating	Warranty	Price
AMEC CAMINO-108 Class B AIS Transponder	Class B CS (2 watt)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	Extra cost	Extra cost	Some	✗	IPX2	1 year	\$489
AMEC CAMINO-108S Class B AIS Transponder	Class B CS (2 watt)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	Integrated	Extra cost	Some	✗	IP54	1 year	\$629
AMEC CAMINO-108W Class B AIS Transponder	Class B CS (2 watt)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Extra cost	Extra cost	Some	✗	IPX2	1 year	\$599
AMEC CAMINO-701 Class A AIS Transponder	Class A (12.5 watt)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	N/A	Marine-grade	Some	Color	IP67	1 year	\$1,999
AMEC WideLink B600 Class B SOTDMA AIS Transponder	Class B SO (5 watt)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	Extra cost	Marine-grade	✓	✗	IP67	1 year	\$699
AMEC WideLink B600W Class B SOTDMA AIS Transponder	Class B SO (5 watt)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Extra cost	Marine-grade	✓	✗	IP67	1 year	\$839
Comar CSA-300 Class A AIS Transponder	Class A (12.5 watt)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	N/A	Marine-grade	✗	Mono		2 year	\$2,499
Comar T200B Class B AIS Transponder	Class B CS (2 watt)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	Extra cost	Extra cost	✗	✗	IP40	1 year	\$669
Comar T200B-S Class B AIS Transponder	Class B CS (2 watt)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	Integrated	Extra cost	✗	✗	IP40	1 year	\$949
em-trak A100 Class A AIS Transponder	Class A (12.5 watt)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	N/A	Marine-grade	✗	Mono		3 year	\$1,295
em-trak A200 Class A AIS Transponder	Class A (12.5 watt)	✓	✓	Opt.	✓	✓	✓	N/A	Marine-grade	✗	Color	IP67	3 year	\$1,849
em-trak B300 Class B AIS Transponder	Class B CS (2 watt)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	Extra cost	Internal	✗	✗	IP67	3 year	\$499
em-trak B350 Class B SOTDMA AIS Transponder	Class B SO (5 watt)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	Extra cost	Internal	✗	✗	IP67	3 year	\$549
em-trak B360 Class B SOTDMA AIS Transponder	Class B SO (5 watt)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	Extra cost	Internal	✗	✗	IP67	3 year	\$699
em-trak B400 Class B AIS Transponder	Class B CS (2 watt)	✓	✓	Opt.	✓	✓	✓	Extra cost	Marine-grade	✓	Color	IP67	3 year	\$1,199
em-trak Class B AIS Sailor Extreme Package (B300 + S300)	Class B CS (2 watt)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	Bundled	Internal	✗	✗	IP67	3 year	\$599
Garmin AIS 600 Class B Transponder	Class B CS (2 watt)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	Integrated	Marine-grade	✗	✗	IPX7	1 year	\$899
Garmin AIS 800 Class B Transponder	Class B SO (5 watt)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	Integrated	Marine-grade	✗	✗	IPX7	1 year	\$999
Icom MA-500TR Class B AIS Transponder	Class B CS (2 watt)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	Extra cost	Marine-grade	✗	✗	IPX7	1 year	\$899
Raymarine AIS700 Class B SOTDMA AIS Transceiver	Class B SO (5 watt)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	Integrated	Marine-grade	✗	✗	IPX6/7	2 year	\$999
Vesper Marine AIS WatchMate 850 Transponder	Class B CS (2 watt)	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	Extra cost	Internal	✗	Mono	IPx7	2 year	\$830
Vesper Marine WatchMate Vision2	Class B CS (2 watt)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	Extra cost	Internal	✓	Color	IPx7	2 year	\$1,150
Vesper Marine XB-6000A AIS Transponder	Class B CS (2 watt)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	Extra cost	Internal	✓	✗	IPx7	2 year	\$489
Vesper Marine XB-6000 AIS Transponder	Class B CS (2 watt)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	Extra cost	Marine-grade	✓	✗	IPx7	2 year	\$555
Vesper Marine XB-8000 AIS Transponder	Class B CS (2 watt)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	Extra cost	Marine-grade	✓	✗	IPx7	2 year	\$740

NOTE: See next page for feature definitions.



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FEATURE	DEFINITION
AIS type	<p>There are two types of Class B AIS Transponders:</p> <p>Class B CSTDMA 2-watt: The traditional Class B units, have a transmit range of 5-7 miles and use the carrier sense system for managing transmission slots.</p> <p>Class B SOTDMA 5-watt: This is a new type of Class B transponder. These units transmit with 5 watts of power and typically transmit 10-15 miles. These use the same self-organized slot management system as commercial Class A transponders.</p> <p>We also sell Class A 12.5-watt transponders which are typically used on commercial vessels. These have a transmit range of 25-30 miles.</p> <p>All AIS transponders have integrated AIS receivers in addition to the AIS transmitter.</p>
NMEA 0183	<p>This allows the transponder to be connected to NMEA 0183 marine devices typically for outputting AIS and GPS data to chartplotters. Transponders can also often take NMEA 0183 data, such as heading data, on the input wires. NMEA 0183 uses two wires for output signals and two for input. All transponders we sell support NMEA 0183.</p>
NMEA 2000	<p>NMEA 2000 is the industry-wide standard for interconnecting low and medium bandwidth marine devices. A transponder with this feature can be easily connected to an existing NMEA 2000 network allowing for AIS and GPS data exchange between the transponder and other NMEA 2000 devices such as chartplotters.</p>
USB	<p>A USB interface allows the transponder to be programmed using a PC or Mac. The USB interface can also be used for sending AIS and GPS data to a PC or Mac-based marine navigation package.</p>
Wi-Fi	<p>Wi-Fi support allows the transponder to be used wirelessly with mobile devices and computers. When coupled with AIS-capable navigation software and apps on devices such as iPads, end users can see AIS traffic overlaid on charts. Wi-Fi might also be used for sending alarms to mobile apps.</p>
Mobile app support	<p>With Wi-Fi support, many popular apps for iPad (iNavX, TZ Boat, SealQ, iSailor, iRegatta), Android (OpenCPN, iSailor, MemoryMap), Windows-based PCs (Rose Point Coastal Explorer, TimeZero) and Mac (OpenCPN, MacENC) can be used with your transponder via a wireless connection. Some vendors, such as Vesper, have their own advanced mobile apps that do sophisticated alarm management, anchor alarm and more.</p>
SD card logger	<p>Some transponders allow an SD card to be plugged into the unit to automatically log the AIS and GPS data from your voyage. This is a popular feature for predicted log racers and other racing boats allowing the user to replay their race after the event.</p>
VHF antenna splitter	<p>The most popular accessory for an AIS transponder is a VHF antenna splitter. This allows you to safely share your main VHF radio antenna with your AIS transponder and VHF radio. Modern splitters are fully automatic, have zero loss for reception via integrated amplifiers and simplify installation. Some transponders have integrated VHF antenna splitters. Or you can get a splitter as part of a bundle or purchased separately. Antenna splitters should not be used on mandated vessels with Class A AIS.</p>
GPS antenna bundled	<p>All AIS transponders are required to use their own integrated GPS system which is built into the transponder unit. The integrated GPS system needs to be connected to a GPS antenna in order to work. Some units have a GPS antenna embedded inside the transponder case. Other units require an external GPS antenna to be connected to the GPS antenna port on the transponder. Many manufacturers bundle a GPS antenna - either internal or external or both - with the transponder. In some cases, you can choose different types of GPS antennas when you make your purchase. Existing GPS antennas intended for use with other types of marine equipment, such as chartplotters, are not compatible with AIS transponders.</p>
NMEA multiplexing	<p>Some AIS transponders can multiplex inbound NMEA 0183 or NMEA 2000 data (such as heading, depth, wind) and output AIS, GPS and the other multiplexed marine data via a Wi-Fi or USB interface. With this capability users can see all of the combined data using supported apps and software on connected devices.</p>
Integrated screen	<p>Some transponders have an integrated display screen for showing AIS data and other vessel information. This feature is popular with users who have older pre-AIS chartplotters and boaters who want a dedicated screen just for viewing AIS targets. All units with integrated displays can also be used with other displays via NMEA, USB or in some cases Wi-Fi.</p>
IP rating	<p>Most transponders have some level of protection against dampness, splashing and dust. The IP rating lets you know how much dust and water protection the unit has.</p>
Warranty	<p>All AIS transponders have at least a one-year warranty to cover repair due to manufacturer defects. Some manufacturers go beyond a year. Note, warranties do not cover damage due to installation errors, lightning or misuse.</p>
Price	<p>Check the product page for the current product price and bundle deals. Milltech Marine provides free vessel info programming and pretesting for all Class B transponders we sell. Milltech Marine has a price match guarantee for all Vesper, AMEC, em-trak and Comar transponders. Show us a lower published price and we will match it.</p>