

# IOTC DFAD Register launch: buoys already active

22/01/2026

## Overview

IOTC Resolution 24/02 mandates, in its paragraph 11, that

*“CPCs shall register buoys deployed before the entry into force of the DFAD Register and still active on the 1 January 2026 when the DFAD Register enters into force.”*

This document describes how Buoy Owners will be able to report in the Register their buoys already deployed before the Register launch and still active (thereafter collectively named “backlog buoys”).

## DFAD Register launch timeline

As a reminder, the global timeline for the launch of the DFAD Register is as follows:

- On 19/01, the Pilot application was closed.
- On Monday 2 February, the Register will officially open, for a “mandatory testing period” that will last until 31/05/2026. During the “mandatory testing phase”, CPCs and Buoy Owners (“BOs”) are encouraged to report feedback to the Secretariat. At the end of the phase, a summary feedback report will be produced, for discussion by CPCs.
- After launch, BOs will be able to report the activation of their currently active buoys (see below).
- On 01/06/2026, the DFAD Register will fully enter its production phase.

## How to report buoys already deployed

Resolution 24/02 mandates that activation of a buoy at sea on a DFAD or log be reported within 24 hours of its activation. Of course, for “backlog buoys”, activation happened before the Register was available for reporting.

So a specific mechanism has been implemented to accommodate reporting of “backlog buoys”. The workflow for Buoy Owners is as follows:

- Step 1. For buoys on DFADs only: **register the DFADs on which the buoys are deployed** using the standard **Registration** Excel template, and obtain their Unique DFAD Identifiers (UDIs).
- Step 2. **Report Activation of the buoys** on the above registered DFADs (with the UDIs obtained at Step 1) or unregistered Logs, using the standard **Operations** Excel template.

In order to allow more time for reporting of backlog buoys and to take into account the delayed launch date (02/02/2026), the 01/01/2026 date mentioned in Resolution 24/02 has been extended to **15/02/2026**.

**Any Activation reported with a date before 15/02/2026:**

- will be allowed even if it predates the registration of the relevant DFAD (which in routine use is not allowed: a DFAD *must* be registered before being deployed with a buoy);
- will not be flagged as Late by the application.

*For the Buoy Owners who would like so, the DFAD Register team can do Step 1 (registration of DFADs already deployed) on their behalf: simply email us a Registration template with the list of your DFADs already at sea and we will register them ahead of launch.*

## Feedback and support

As a reminder, the DFAD Register page on the IOTC website provides:

- The list of templates to be used for registering DFADs and reporting operations on DFADs and Logs (in English and French).
- Quick user manuals (In English) for Buoy Owners.

It is accessible at this address: <https://iotc.org/dfad-register>

For any feedback or support, please send an email to:

[iotc-dfad@fao.org](mailto:iotc-dfad@fao.org)