



TECHNICAL MANUAL and INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

AS-3773B/U ANTENNA

VTM-91-773/D

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RECORD OF CHANGES

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A	Mar 2004	General Formatting Edits	Jason Soper
B	Aug 2007	Added Maintenance Section	Jason Soper
C	May 2009	Added information depicting the eyebolt on the antenna	Jason Soper
D	Nov 2013	Various minor improvements	Jason Soper

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SECTION 1

GENERAL INFORMATION AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

1-1. GENERAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

The following general safety precautions are not related to any specific procedures and therefore do not appear elsewhere in this publication. These are recommended precautions that personnel must understand and apply during many phases of operation and maintenance.

WARNING

Keep away from live circuits. Operating personnel must at all times observe all safety regulations, to prevent serious injury or death due to electrical shock.

Do not service or adjust alone. Under no circumstances should any person service or adjust the equipment except in the presence of someone who is capable of rendering aid.

Personnel working with or near high voltages should be familiar with modern methods of resuscitation.

1-2 SPECIFIC WARNINGS

The following specific precautions are related to inspecting and removing the antenna.

WARNING

Ensure that the transmitting equipment is de-energized prior to inspection of the antenna. Make sure the test equipment is properly grounded, to prevent electric shock.

CAUTION

Make sure the antenna is properly supported before removing its mounting hardware.

CAUTION

Do not coat the insulator with any substance; do not paint with lead base paints.

1-3. INTRODUCTION

1-3.1 Purpose. This manual provides general information on the AS-3773B/U, as well as an operational and functional description of the antenna and installation data. Information in this manual will assist in installing and operating the antenna.

1-3.2 Scope. This technical manual is provided to aid in the operation and installation of the antenna.

1-3.3 Applicability. This manual applies to the single whip application of Antenna AS-3773B/U. Where this antenna is used in twin whip application, consult the appropriate antenna group technical manual.

1-4. EQUIPMENT DESCRIPTION

1-4.1 General Description. The antenna, shown in Figure 4-1 is an 18 foot transmitting/receiving whip antenna for general use with HF communications equipment. The antenna has an aluminum radiating element and an integral fiberglass insulator/mounting base.

1-4.2 Capabilities. The antenna provides vertically polarized, omnidirectional azimuth radiation from 10 to 30 MHz when the antenna is operated in a twin whip and tuner configuration. It may be employed for general purpose broadband communications reception from VLF to 30 MHz. It meets high shock requirements and provides minimum mast loadings. 1-4.3 Limitations. When used as directed, the antenna has no limitations.

1-5. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER EQUIPMENT

The AS-3773B/U Antenna interfaces with the HF receiving and transmitting equipment.

1-6. REFERENCE DATA

Table 1-1 lists the reference data for the antenna.

1-7. EQUIPMENT ACCESSORIES, AND DOCUMENTS SUPPLIED

Table 1-2 lists the equipment and documents supplied.

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Table 1-1. Reference Data

PARAMETER	SPECIFICATION
NOMENCLATURE	ANTENNA AS-3773B/U
MANUFACTURER	VALCOM MANUFACTURING GROUP, INC. 35736
FREQUENCY RANGE	TRANSMITTING: 10 TO 30 MHZ (TWIN WHIPS AND TUNER) RECEIVING: VLF TO 30 MHZ
IMPEDANCE	VARIES
POLARIZATION	VERTICAL
POWER CAPABILITY	5 KW SINGLE ANTENNA
RADIATION PATTERN	OMNIDIRECTIONAL
TEMPERATURE	OPERATING: -54°C TO +65°C NON OPERATING: -62°C TO +71°C
WIND VELOCITY	115 MPH
HUMIDITY	95%
SHOCK	QUALIFIED TO MEET MIL-S-901C, GRADE A
VIBRATION	QUALIFIED TO MEET MIL-STD-167-1 TYPE I

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Table 1-2. Equipment, Accessories and Documents Supplied

QTY	NOMENCLATURE	OVERALL DIMENSIONS (INCHES)				WEIGHT (POUNDS) UNCRATED
		CRATED		UNCRATED		
		HEIGHT	DIA	HEIGHT	DIA	
1	ANTENNA AS-3773B/U	---	---	216	13.0 (BASE)	140
1	TECHNICAL MANUAL FOR AS-3773B/U ANTENNA VTM-91-773					

SECTION 2

OPERATION

2-1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides operating instructions for the antenna.

2-2. CONTROLS AND INDICATORS

The antenna contains no controls or indicators.

2-3. OPERATING PROCEDURES

2-3.1 Operator Turn-On. No operator turn-on procedures apply since no power is required to operate the antenna. However, the antenna is coupled to RF equipment (transmitter/receiver) and to associated systems which may require energizing. For operating instructions, consult the appropriate technical manuals.

2-3.2 Modes of Operation. The antenna operated automatically, and no operator intervention is required other than interconnecting various associated equipment with the antenna.

2-3.3 Operation Under Interfering Conditions. No additional or alternate instructions are necessary to operate the antenna under interfering conditions.

2-3.4 Operator Turn-off. Since no power is required to operate the antenna, no operator turn-off is required. However, the specific equipment connected to the antenna may require operator turn-off. Consult the associated technical manuals for turn-off procedures.

2-3.5 Emergency Operation. No additional or alternate steps are necessary to operate the antenna under emergency conditions.

2-3.6 Emergency Turn-off. The antenna requires no emergency turn-off. For emergency turn-off of specific equipment connected to the antenna, consult the associated technical manuals.

SECTION 3

FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTION

3-1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the functional description of the antenna. **3-2. OVERALL LEVEL**

The antenna is a base mounted, high-power antenna which provides omnidirectional coverage for general purpose communications reception from VLF to 30 MHz and for transmission from 10 to 30 MHz when used in a twin whip and tuner configuration.

3-3. MAJOR FUNCTION LEVEL

The antenna consists of an aluminum radiating element and an integral fibreglass insulator/mounting flange. The aluminum radiating element tapers from approximately 8 inches in diameter at the base insulator to approximately 4 inches in diameter at the top. The integral fibreglass insulator/mounting flange isolates the radiating element of the antenna from the ground and physically supports the element. The insulator/mounting flange is constructed of high-strength, laminated epoxy fibreglass materials. When the antenna is used for transmitting, an antenna coupler is required. When used for receiving, the antenna requires the use of a termination box. For transmitting or receiving, a feedwire assembly is required to connect the antenna to the antenna coupler or termination box. 3-3.1 Feedwire Assembly. The feedwire assembly is provided by installing activity and provides a means of attaching the antenna tuner or termination box to the antenna.

SECTION 4

INSTALLATION

4-1. SITE INFORMATION

Valcom's AS-3773B/U HF Antenna is designed primarily for shipboard installation. The antenna can also be used at shore installations. The antenna should be installed in a non-obstructed environment, clear from any contiguous structures, such as masts, bulkheads, or other metal objects.

4-2. TOOLS AND MATERIALS REQUIRED

15/16" (normally) wrenches for 5/8" hardware for antenna base bolts (not provided).

7/16" wrenches for feed-point connector bolts

No other special tools and materials are required for installation.

4-3. UNPACKING AND REPACKING

Table 1-2 gives data on the overall dimensions, volume, and weight of the crated antenna. To unpack, carefully remove the screws holding the cover, and remove the antenna from the container. Save the container to pack the antenna for reshipment. No special handling procedures are required; observed normal precautions when handling the antenna.

4-4. FOUNDATION

The antenna should be installed vertically on a mounting plate that has bolt holes matching those in the antenna base (see figure 4-1).

4-5. INPUT REQUIREMENTS

The antenna has an rf power handling capability of 5 kW when used singularly or 10 kW when used in a twin whip configuration with tuner in the 10 to 30 MHz frequency range.

4-6. INSTALLATION PROCEDURES

After unpacking the antenna, proceed with its installation as follows:

- a. Examine the exterior of the antenna for damage; make sure that the radiating element and the base has not been damaged, misaligned, or fractured.
- b. Carefully lift the antenna to its mounting platform. A nominal 1 inch eye bolt is installed on

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the top of the antenna to facilitate lifting with a crane. Align the mounting holes of the base flange with the mounting holes in the platform.

- c. Secure the antenna to its mounting plate with using eight 5/8-11 hex head cap screws (not provided), along with two flat-washers, a split-lock-washer and a nut. Bolt length will need to be determined by the installing activity. A final torque between 90-100 ft-lbs is acceptable for the bolts.
- d. Connect the system feedline to the antenna at any one or all of the three feedpoints as required.

4-7. INSTALLATION CHECKOUT

Checkout of the antenna after installation can only be accomplished by operating the receiving and transmitting equipment that is used with the antenna.

Note: If replacing an existing antenna with a new antenna, it is recommended that new mounting hardware be used.

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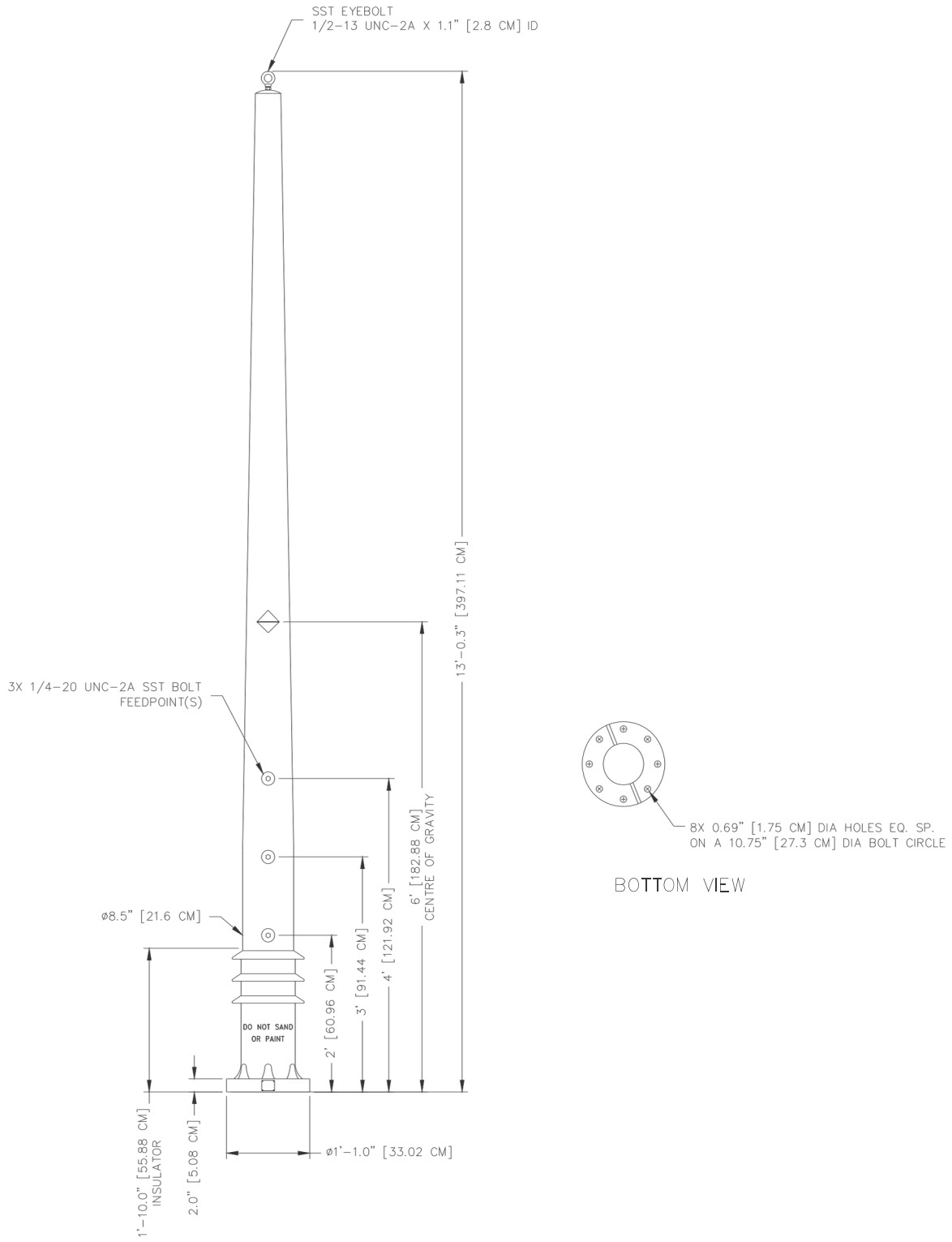


Figure 4-1 Outline Drawing

SECTION 5

MAINTENANCE

5-1. SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE

The antenna is virtually maintenance free. The external finish is a silicone alkyd paint. The minimum finish life before showing signs of deterioration should be at least six years under normal climate conditions. When used in salt-water environments, it is recommended to wash the antenna base with fresh water to remove any build-up of dried salt residue. This must be performed on a monthly basis, when exposed to sea-spray. Use a small wire brush to clear any debris from the drain groove found in the bottom of the antenna base. All threaded hardware, including the base mounting bolts and the input power connector bolts should be inspected for signs of damage and to ensure proper tightness (suggested torque settings can be found on page 8). In most cases a quick visual inspection is all that is required. This must be performed on a monthly basis or whenever practical.

5-2. CORRECTIVE MAINTENANCE

Generally, no corrective maintenance is possible or required. If one section is severely damaged, it must be replaced by a new section. Workshops having experience in handling epoxy fibreglass composite structures and/or aluminum construction may attempt the repair of minor surface damage if practicable. Use a small wire brush to clear any debris from the drain groove found in the bottom of the antenna base.

NOTE

DO NOT USE LEAD BASE PAINT TO TOUCH-UP OR REPAINT THE ANTENNA. USE ONLY EPOXY BASE PAINT.

SECTION 6

QUICK REFERENCE DATA

6-1. GENERAL

Manufacturer's contact information can be found in Section 6-2.

6-2. MANUFACTURER'S ADDRESS

Postal address:
Valcom Manufacturing Group, Inc P.O. Box 603 Guelph, Ontario Canada N1H 6L3

Shipping address:
Valcom Manufacturing Group, Inc 175 Southgate Drive Guelph, Ontario Canada N1G 3M5

Or directly at:
Phone : (519) 824 - 3220 Fax : (519) 824 - 3411 e-mail : enquiries@valcom-guelph.com Internet : www.valcommfg.ca