



Luxembourg, 12th April 2016

Circular CAM 03/2016

To : All accredited shipping managers and DPAs

O/Ref : AH/107185

Compliance for GMDSS HF NBDP Channelling requirements

This circular intends to remind you that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has issued requirements that high frequency (HF) radiocommunications equipment capable of operating narrow-band direct printing (NBDP) is updated to meet the new channelling arrangements contained in the **2012 Radio Regulations HF, Appendix 17, Part B, Sections II and III** (HF direct-printing telegraphy) by the first safety radio survey after the 1st January 2017. This will ensure Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) communication capability.

Although most existing equipment should already be in compliance with these requirements, equipment that is unable to comply with the Radio Regulations will have to be replaced and the newly installed HF NBDP equipment should be suitably type approved per guidance issued in the attached **IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ. 1460 Guidance on the Validity of Radiocommunications Equipment Installed and Used On Ships**.

Owners and Masters of vessels equipped with HF NBDP equipment should therefore ensure it is HF direct-printing telegraphy compliant in time for the first safety radio survey after the 1st January 2017.

This circular should be of interest to shipowners, managers, masters and officers. Accredited shipping managers are kindly requested to make sure that this circular is properly distributed to the respective staffs or companies intervening in the management of the ships.



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MSC.1/Circ.1460
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GUIDANCE ON THE VALIDITY OF RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT INSTALLED AND USED ON SHIPS

- 1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-second session (12 to 21 June 2013), taking into account the recommendation of the Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue at its seventeenth session (21 to 25 January 2013), having recognized concerns that incompatibility may exist between radiocommunication equipment installed on ships, and the revised frequencies and channelling arrangements for the maritime HF and VHF bands as contained in appendices 17 and 18 to the Radio Regulations (RR) – Edition 2012, approved this *Guidance on the validity of radiocommunications equipment installed and used on ships*.
- 2 The World Radiocommunication Conference 2012 made extensive changes to appendices 17 and 18 of the RR. Whilst these changes do not affect the GMDSS, they do affect the use of other frequencies that would be used by services such as Port Operations and VTS.
- 3 The RR provisions apply as from the dates of application indicated in article 59 and resolution 98 of the RR. Timely action is required by ships to ensure that radiocommunication equipment complies with the RR. Replacement of operating hardware may be necessary to meet the changed requirements.
- 4 According to the *Performance standards for shipborne VHF radio installations capable of communication and digital selective calling* (resolution A.803(19)), the equipment should comply with the Radio Regulations.
- 5 Attention is drawn to MSC.1/Circ.1389, which contains *Guidance on procedures for updating shipborne navigation and communication equipment*, and that updates to application software and firmware to meet changes in IMO and ITU regulatory requirements were needed.
- 6 To ensure GMDSS communication capability, HF radiocommunication equipment capable of operating narrow-band direct printing (NBDP) should be updated so that following the first radio survey after 1 January 2017 it meets the channelling arrangements reflected in sections II and III of part B in appendix 17 of the RR.
- 7 Radiocommunication equipment, other than HF radiocommunication equipment capable of operating NBDP, does not necessarily need to be updated by the first radio survey after 1 January 2017, but may be updated appropriately in accordance with the decisions of the Administration.
- 8 Member Governments are invited to bring this information to the attention of the appropriate national authorities and all other parties concerned.

