



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC- 334

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To: Ship-owners / Operators, Masters, Legal Representatives and Recognized Organizations.

Subject: Compliance with GMDSS Frequencies Narrow Band Direct Printing Channeling Requirements.

Reference: IMO Circular MSC. 1 / Circ. 1460Rev.2, IMO Assemble Resolution A.803 (19), SOLAS Ch. IV Regulation 14.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The World Radio communication Conference 2012 made extensive changes to appendices 17 and 18 of the Radio Regulations (RR). In particular, Sections II and III of the Part B in Appendix 17 has revised frequencies and channeling arrangements for the maritime HF and VHF bands. The IMO Maritime Safety Committee, at its 92nd session, has approved the Guidance on the validity of Radio Communication equipment installed and used on ships (MSC.1/ Circ. 1460).
- 1.2 As per agreement reached during the 97th session & 98th session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) respectively that MSC.1 / Circ., 1460/Rev. 2 was issued amended the schedule of new NBDP requirement to be postponed to 1st January 2024.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 The Purpose of this Circular is to remind ship interests that, in order to ensure Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) communication capability, HF radiocommunication equipment capable of operating Narrow Band Direct Printing (NBDP) should be updated so that at the first radio survey after 1 January 2024, it meets the channeling arrangements reflected in sections II and III of part B in appendix 17 of the RR.
- 2.2 Likewise the MF radiocommunication equipment to be capable of operating NBDP as well as VHF equipment, without prejudice to the arrangements contained in appendix 18 of the RR, should be updated so that following the first radio survey after 1 January 2024, at the earliest; it meets the arrangements which will be in force by then.

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- 2.3 The equipment that it is not capable to comply with RR should be replaced.
- 2.4 There is the possibility of this Administration issuing exemptions to ships having to replace obsolete equipment if enough evidence is provided where it is clear that the ports visited have not and / or not upgrade its regulations and equipment according to the RR.
- 2.5 The Ship's Radio License requires amending if the equipment on board is replaced. There is no need to upgrade the Radio License if the equipment on board may be upgraded by means of software or firmware. The same applies for already compliant equipment.
- 2.6 Most equipment already installed on board ships is already compliant or may be upgraded.
- 2.7 Radio Regulations are mandatory by means of the Performance Standards required on IMO instruments from the radio equipment.

August 2017 – amended the subject / the reference; amendment to point 1.1 & 1.2; paragraph in point 2.2 added, and re-numbering the remaining points.

December 2016 – paragraphs numbering, paragraph 1.2 added and year amendment in paragraph 2.1.

October 2016

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular or any other request should be directed to:

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