



# Technical Circular

No.: 010/2016

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016

**To Whomsoever it may concern**

**Subject: Guidance on the validity of Radio Communication Equipment installed and used on ships**

1. The world Radio Communication Conference 2012 made changes to appendices 17 and 18 of the Radio Regulation. Certain frequencies and channelling arrangements for the maritime HF and VHF bands as contained in appendices 17 and 18 of the Radio Regulations are revised. Due to these changes, the use of frequencies that would be used by services such as Port Operations and VTS will get affected.
2. Accordingly shipboard radio communication equipment will required to be modified in order to meet the changed Radio Regulation requirement. Replacement of operating hardware may be necessary.
3. The International Maritime Organization has issued circular MSC.1/Circ.1460 (copy attached) providing guidance on the validity of radio communication equipments installed and used on ships.
4. To ensure GMDSS communication capability, HF radio communication 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 Radio Regulation.
5. Radio communication equipment, other than HF radio communication equipment capable of operating NBDP, does not necessarily need to be updated by the first radio survey after 1st January 2017, but may be updated appropriately in accordance with the time frame as advised by the Flag Administration.
6. Ship Owners and managers are advised to take note of above and accordingly arrange for timely up gradation of GMDSS equipments on their ships.

**Enclosure:**

1. MSC.1/Circ.1460 Reg "Guidance on the validity of Radio Communications Equipment installed and used on Ships".



. This Technical Circular and the material contained in it is provided only for the purpose of supplying current information to the reader and not as an advice to be relied upon by any person.  
. While we have taken utmost care to be as factual as possible, readers/ users are advised to verify the exact text and content of the Regulation from the original source/ issuing Authority.

4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT  
LONDON SE1 7SR  
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

MSC.1/Circ.1460  
24 June 2013

## **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.

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