



# Technical Circular

No.: 019/2023

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023

## **Subject: GOI - Usage of Thurava. Iridium and other such Satellite Communication in Indian Waters.**

1. Indian Administration vide DGS Order No. 02 of 2012 had banned the usage of Thuraya, Iridium and other such satellites in the Indian waters.
2. However, based on the recognition by IMO vide MSC. 451 (99) for Iridium Satellite LLC as one of the recognized mobile satellite service for use in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), Indian Administration has now issued DGS Order No. 09 of 2023, **superseding DGS Order No. 02 of 2012**, permitting the usage of Iridium Mobile Satellite communication equipment under GMDSS in the Indian waters, subject to following conditions:
  - a. Merchant ships may install and keep the Iridium equipment active in Indian Territorial waters, provided the equipment is registered and certified as per the prevailing rules of the Flag of the ship and is used only onboard ship and the portable Iridium sets may not be carried onto Indian Land Territory.
  - b. Iridium Satellite equipment is to be used in GMDSS exclusively for Maritime Radiocommunications relating to Distress and Safety, Search and Rescue and for receiving Maritime Safety Information (MSI) from ship's fixed installations only.
  - c. The ships transiting or visiting in Indian waters shall continue to declare IMEI number of the equipment in the Pre-Arrival Notification on Security (PANS).
3. Thuraya Satellite Equipment is not an integral part of Maritime Radiocommunication system under Global Maritime Distress and Safety Systems (CMDSS) and **its usage is continued to be banned in Indian Waters.**
4. The ship-owners, ship-masters and ship-agents are required to mandatorily declare details of such satellite phones prior arrival into Indian Waters through the Pre-Arrival Notification on Security (PANS) systems.
5. Owners/operators and masters are advised to take note of above and ensure compliance.

### **Enclosure:**

1. DGS Order No. 09 of 2023, dated 12 July 2023.



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MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI



F.No. 25-25/1/2022-NT-DGS

Date: 12.07.2023

**DGS Order No. 09 of 2023**

**Subject: Usage of Thuraya, Iridium and other such Satellite Communication in Indian Waters-reg.**

The Directorate General of Shipping through DGS Order No. 02 of 2012 dated 17.05.2012 had banned the usage of Thuraya, Iridium and other such satellites in the Indian Waters.

2. Thuraya Satellite Equipment is not an integral part of Maritime Radiocommunication system under Global Maritime Distress and Safety Systems (GMDSS) and its usage is continued to be banned in Indian Waters.

3. Whereas, Regulation 4.1- GMDSS Satellite Providers, which emphasizes that, the Maritime Safety Committee shall determine the criteria, procedures and arrangements for the evaluation, recognition, review and oversight of the provision of recognized mobile satellite services in the GMDSS pursuant to the provisions of SOLAS Chapter-IV.

4. Whereas, Maritime Safety Committee vide Resolution MSC 451(99) dated 24 May 2018 had recognized Iridium Satellite LLC to provide Safety Voice, Short-Burst data and enhanced group calling services for use in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS). The Iridium Satellite service is fully operational since December 2020 and being part of SOLAS Chapter –IV as one of the recognized mobile satellite service.

5. Under GMDSS, the usage of Iridium Mobile Satellite communication equipment in the Indian Waters are considered subject to the conditions as outlined under;

a) Merchant ships may install and keep the Iridium equipment active in Indian Territorial waters, provided the equipment is registered and certified as per the prevailing rules of the Flag of the ship and is used only onboard ship and the portable Iridium sets may not be carried onto Indian Land Territory.

b) Iridium Satellite equipment shall be used in GMDSS exclusively for Maritime Radiocommunications relating to Distress and Safety, Search and Rescue and for receiving Maritime Safety Information (MSI) from ship's fixed installations only.

c) The ships transiting or visiting in Indian waters shall continue to declare IMEI number of the equipment in the Pre-Arrival Notification on Security (PANS).

*[Signature]* 12/07/23 Contd...02

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7. The ship-owners, ship-masters and ship-agents shall mandatorily require to declare details of such satellite phones prior arrival into Indian Waters through the Pre-Arrival Notification on Security (PANS) systems.

8. The unauthorized usage of Thuraya, Iridium and other such Satellite equipment shall be prosecuted under Section-6 of Indian Wireless Act and Section-20 of Indian Telegraph Act.

9. The Ship-Owners, Ship-Masters, Ship-Operators, Ship-Agents and other stake holders are intimated for strict compliance of this DGS Order.

10. This DGS Order supersedes previous DGS order 02 of 2012 dated 17.05.2012 and is entry into force with immediate effect.

*Shyam Jagannathan*  
12/07/20

Shri Shyam Jagannathan

Director General of Shipping & Additional Secretary to the GOI.