



香港商船資訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Procedure for Responding to DSC Distress Alerts by Ships

To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters and Classification Societies

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to advise the parties concerned of the revised Procedure for responding to DSC distress alerts by ships.

1. The Maritime Safety Committee ("MSC") of the International Maritime Organization ("IMO"), at its 106th session in November 2022, approved the circular MSC.1/Circ.1657 with a view to providing the revised Procedure for responding to DSC distress alerts by ships.
2. This circular contains a procedure to be followed by radio personnel on board ships when responding to VHF, MF and HF distress alerts, in accordance with chapter IV of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 ("SOLAS"). Flow diagrams 1 and 2 are recommended to be displayed on ships' bridges as A4 size posters. The circular MSC.1/Circ.1657 becomes effective on 1 January 2024, superseding COMSAR/Circ.25 as from that date.
3. The circular MSC.1/Circ.1657 can be found on the website of Marine Department (<https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html>) as attachment to this Note.
4. Shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, ship masters and classification societies of Hong Kong registered ships are required to note the procedure and act accordingly.

Marine Department
Multi-lateral Policy Division

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