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HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Measures to Reduce the Number of False Distress Alerts and Clarifications of Certain Requirements in IMO Performance Standards for GMDSS Equipment

To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters and GMDSS Equipment Manufacturers

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to promulgate the Measures to Reduce the Number of False Distress Alerts and Clarifications of Certain Requirements in IMO Performance Standards for GMDSS Equipment. This Note supersedes Hong Kong Merchant Shipping Notice No. 37/1998.

1. The Maritime Safety Committee of the IMO, at its 69th session in May 1998, approved the circulars MSC/Circ.861 on “Measures to reduce the number of false distress alerts” and MSC/Circ.862 on “Clarifications of certain requirements in IMO performance standards for GMDSS equipment”. The above circulars provide guidance to reduce the number of false distress alerts which have been experienced in GMDSS radio systems.
2. The circulars MSC/Circ.861 and MSC/Circ.862 can be found on the webpage of Marine Department (<http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html>) as attachments to this Note.
3. Shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, ship masters and GMDSS manufacturers are urged to carefully study and follow the guidelines provided in the MSC circulars.
4. This Note supersedes Hong Kong Merchant Shipping Notice No. 37/1998.

Marine Department
Multi-lateral Policy Division

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