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**RECOMMENDED MEANS FOR EXTRACTING STORED DATA FROM  
VOYAGE DATA RECORDERS (VDRs) AND SIMPLIFIED VOYAGE DATA  
RECORDERS (S-VDRs) FOR INVESTIGATION AUTHORITIES**

1 The Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation (NAV), at its fifty-first session (6 to 10 June 2005), recognizing that, after an accident, there is a need for the investigators to be able to download the stored data and playback the information from VDRs/S-VDRs without delay, agreed on the Recommended means for extracting stored data from voyage data recorders (VDRs) and simplified voyage data recorders (S-VDRs) for investigation Authorities.

2 Member Governments are invited to bring the annexed recommendation to the attention of all concerned.

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**ANNEX****RECOMMENDED MEANS FOR EXTRACTING STORED DATA FROM VOYAGE DATA RECORDERS (VDRs) AND SIMPLIFIED VOYAGE DATA RECORDERS (S-VDRs) FOR INVESTIGATION AUTHORITIES**

1 To enable accident investigators to make effective use of VDR or S-VDR data after an accident, it is essential for the investigators to be able to download the stored data and playback the information without delay. There is at present no required interface in a VDR or S-VDR for the use by investigators.

2 To assist in achieving this aim, it is recommended that all VDR and S-VDR systems installed on or after 1 July 2006 be supplied with an accessible means for extracting the stored data from the VDR or S-VDR to a laptop computer. Where an installed VDR or S-VDR already supports a data output port as per paragraph 3.1 below, means should be provided for existing installations after 1 July 2007.

3 Manufacturers should therefore provide:

- .1 an output port providing data in an internationally recognized format, such as Ethernet, USB, FireWire, or equivalent;
- .2 software, compatible with an operating system available with commercial off-the-shelf laptop computers stored on a portable storage device such as a CD-ROM, DVD, USB-memory stick, etc.; and
- .3 instructions for executing the software and for connecting the laptop to the VDR/S-VDR.

4 The software should provide the capability to download the stored data and playback the information.

5 The portable storage device, the instructions and any special (not commercial off-the-shelf) parts necessary for the physical connection, should be stored within the main unit of the VDR/S-VDR and available for the exclusive use of the accident investigation Authorities.

6 If so requested, VDR/S-VDR manufacturers should make available download and playback software including updates and ship specific software to investigation Authorities.