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.