



## 香港商船資訊

## HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

**GMDSS Operating Guidance for Ships in Distress Situations**

*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 GMDSS operating guidance for ships in distress situations.

1. The Maritime Safety Committee ("MSC") of the International Maritime Organization ("IMO"), at its 106<sup>th</sup> session in November 2022, approved the circular MSC.1/Circ.1656 with a view to providing the revised GMDSS operating guidance for ships in distress situations.
2. This circular provides guidance concerning the use of appropriate radiocommunication equipment in distress situations, in accordance with chapter IV of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 ("SOLAS"). The Guidance is recommended to be displayed on ships' bridges as an A4 size poster. The circular MSC.1/Circ.1656 becomes effective on 1 January 2024, superseding COM/Circ.108 as from that date.
3. The circular MSC.1/Circ.1656 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 guidance and act accordingly.

Marine Department  
Multi-lateral Policy Division

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