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SLS.14/Circ.492
15 April 2013

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974

Equivalent arrangements accepted under regulation I/5

MF/HF direct-printing telegraphy equipment

**Statement by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
of the People's Republic of China**

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to transmit herewith the text of a communication by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, regarding equivalent arrangements for MF/HF direct-printing telegraphy equipment accepted under regulation I/5 of the above Convention.

The Secretary-General would be grateful if steps could be taken to bring this information to the attention of the appropriate authorities.

ANNEX



**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION**
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office
香港特別行政區政府
香港駐倫敦經濟貿易辦事處
6 Grafton Street, London W1S 4EQ, UK

9 April 2013

The Secretary-General
The International Maritime Organization
4, Albert Embankment
London, SE1 7SR

Dear Sir,

**Equivalent arrangement accepted under SOLAS regulation I/5
in respect of MF/HF direct-printing telegraphy equipment**

I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement from the Maritime Administration of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, on the acceptance of equivalent arrangement in accordance with the SOLAS Regulation I/5 with respect to MF/HF direct printing telegraphy equipment.

The Hong Kong Maritime Administration would appreciate if IMO could bring this information to the attention of SOLAS Contracting Governments.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W.K. Lee'.

(W.K. Lee)
Permanent Representative
of Hong Kong, China to IMO

Encl. (2 pages)

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9 April 2013

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974

**Equivalent arrangement accepted under regulation I/5
in respect of MF/HF direct-printing telegraphy equipment**

**Statement by the Maritime Administration of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of
the People's Republic of China**

1. Regulation IV/10 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) requires as primary long distance communication equipment in sea area A3, either:
 - (a) an Inmarsat ship earth station (Regulation IV/10.1.1), or
 - (b) an MF/HF radio installation using DSC, radiotelephony and direct-printing telegraphy (Regulation IV/10.2.1).

In both cases, an Inmarsat ship earth station is accepted as duplication equipment in accordance with Regulation IV/15.7.

2. MF/HF direct-printing telegraphy equipment is rarely used for transmitting and receiving distress and safety radio communications. After a possible activation of the DSC distress alert on MF/HF the ship will most likely switch to radiotelephony for the performance of distress and safety radio communications.
3. Neither is MF/HF direct-printing telegraphy used for general radio communication purposes, as most A3-ships are provided with an Inmarsat-C ship earth station, which is more familiar to the radio operator and easier to operate. Most coast stations have terminated their MF/HF direct-printing telegraphy service.
4. The background for including MF/HF direct-printing telegraphy in the GMDSS was to avoid confusion of languages on radiotelephony by requiring the possibility of using written communications. The requirements for written communications can be fulfilled with e.g. an Inmarsat-C ship earth station.
5. The seventy-fifth session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 75/24, para 11.13 to 11.14) approved a new ship earth station, called Inmarsat Fleet 77 for use in the GMDSS.
6. In view of the above, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China gives notification of the following equivalent arrangements to Regulation IV/10.2.1.3, under the provisions of Regulation I/5 of the above Convention:

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“An Inmarsat Fleet 77 terminal can be accepted as equivalent to the direct-printing telegraphy part of an MF/HF radio installation in Sea Areas A1, A2 and A3. It is a condition that the MF/HF radio installation using DSC and radiotelephony is fully operational and that such ships are provided with an Inmarsat-C ship earth station.

The Inmarsat Fleet 77 terminal shall be installed in accordance with the IMO guidelines on harmonization of GMDSS requirements for radio installations on board SOLAS ships (COMSAR/Circ.32), in particular with respect to the reserve source of energy and antenna.”
