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MSC.1/Circ.1645
16 May 2022

**GUIDANCE FOR THE RECEPTION OF MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION AND
SEARCH AND RESCUE RELATED INFORMATION AS REQUIRED IN THE
GLOBAL MARITIME DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM (GMDSS)**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its 105th session (20 to 29 April 2022), approved the *Guidance for the reception of maritime safety information and search and rescue related information as required in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)* as set out in the annex, prepared by the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR), at its eighth session (19 to 23 April 2021).

2 In considering the amendments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention adopted by resolution MSC.496(105), in particular regulation IV/7.1.4 concerning the requirement for every ship to be provided with receiver(s) capable of receiving maritime safety information (MSI) and search and rescue (SAR) related information throughout the entire voyage in which the ship is engaged and noting that the four-year cycle for the entry into force of SOLAS amendments may not be capable of keeping pace with technological advancements, the Committee agreed to issue the *Guidance for the reception of maritime safety information and search and rescue related information as required in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)*.

3 This circular provides guidance on the recognized MSI and SAR related information broadcast services and the equipment which should be installed on board ships to meet the requirements of SOLAS chapter IV while enabling the flexibility to incorporate new technologies as they become recognized by the Organization.

4 The Committee agreed that the Guidance in the annex should become applicable from 1 January 2024 in conjunction with the entry into force of the related SOLAS amendments.

5 Contracting Governments and the relevant international organizations are invited to bring the Guidance to the attention of all parties concerned.

ANNEX

GUIDANCE FOR THE RECEPTION OF MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION AND SEARCH AND RESCUE RELATED INFORMATION AS REQUIRED IN THE GLOBAL MARITIME DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM (GMDSS)

MSI and SAR related information broadcast services

1 Depending on where the ship operates, the following services can be used for the reception of maritime safety information (MSI) and search and rescue (SAR) related information as part of the GMDSS:

- .1 International NAVTEX Service,¹ which provides the coordinated broadcast and automatic reception on 518 kHz of MSI and SAR related information by means of narrow-band direct-printing telegraphy using the English language;
- .2 High frequency narrow-band direct-printing (HF NBDP) using radio telegraphy as defined in Recommendation ITU-R M.688, as amended; and
- .3 International Enhanced Group Call (EGC) service provided by a recognized mobile satellite service:
 - .1 International SafetyNET services,² which provides the coordinated broadcast and automatic reception of MSI and SAR related information via the Inmarsat enhanced group call system, using the English language; and
 - .2 International Iridium SafetyCast service,³ which provides the coordinated broadcast and automatic reception of MSI and SAR related information via the enhanced group call system, using the English language.

2 The individual MSI and SAR related information broadcast services in the GMDSS are interdependent. Information that is broadcast via NAVTEX is not necessarily duplicated over an international EGC service or HF NBDP.

3 SAR authorities may broadcast SAR related information over the services described in paragraph 1, as required.

Guidance to meet obligations of SOLAS chapter IV

4 In order to meet the requirements in SOLAS regulation IV/7.1.4, ships should be provided with equipment appropriate for the entire voyage in which the ship is engaged, as follows:

- .1 a receiver capable of receiving international NAVTEX service broadcasts if the ship is engaged on voyages in any area in which an international NAVTEX service is provided; and

¹ Refer to revised NAVTEX Manual (MSC.1/Circ.1403/Rev.1).

² Refer to International SafetyNET Services Manual (MSC.1/Circ.1364/Rev.2).

³ Refer to Interim Iridium SafetyCast Service Manual (MSC.1/Circ.1613/Rev.1).

- .2 if the ship is engaged in voyages in which an international NAVTEX service is not provided:
 - .1 a receiver capable of receiving HF NBDP service when a ship is engaged in voyages where such service is provided; or
 - .2 receiver(s) capable of receiving broadcasts from an international EGC service identified in paragraph 1.3 which provide(s) a service for the operating areas.

5 The GMDSS Master Plan module in GISIS provides necessary information to identify the coverage area and necessary details for MSI and SAR related information broadcast services related to each NAVAREA and METAREA. The GMDSS Master Plan module⁴ is accessible to all registered Public Account holders.⁵

⁴ Refer to GMDSS.1/Circ.23.

⁵ Any member of the public who is registered with an IMO Web account.