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HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Recommendation on Use of GMDSS Equipment for Non-safety Communications

To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators and Ship Masters

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to promulgate the Recommendation on Use of GMDSS Equipment for Non-safety Communications. This Note supersedes Hong Kong Merchant Shipping Notice No. 19/1998.

1. The Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR) of the IMO, at its 3rd session in February 1998, approved the recommendation as stipulated in IMO circular COMSAR/Circ.17.
2. In the circular, it is recommended that GMDSS equipment should be utilized for routine communications or testing in order to ensure equipment availability and operator competency. Greater experience in the use of GMDSS equipment should further help to reduce the false alerts which are often transmitted inadvertently by inexperienced operators.
3. The circular COMSAR/Circ.17 can be found on the webpage of Marine Department (<http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html>) as an attachment to this Note.
4. Shipowners, ship managers, ship operators and ship masters are requested to comply with the recommendation made in the circular.
5. This Note supersedes Hong Kong Merchant Shipping Notice No. 19/1998.

Marine Department
Multi-lateral Policy Division

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