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Notice to All Ship-Owners, Operators, Training Institutes, Masters of Sri Lankan Flagged Ships, and Recognized Organizations.

Compliance with GMDSS High Frequency Narrow Band Direct Printing Channelling Requirements

1. Reference:

- IMO MSC.1 / Circ. 1460

2. Introduction

The World Radio communication Conference 2012 made extensive changes to appendices 17 and 18 of the Radio Regulations. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has issued new regulations of sections II and III, Part B in Appendix 17 of 2012 Radio Regulations concerning the revised frequencies and channelling arrangements for the maritime HF bands. Considering that incompatibility may exist between radio communication 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, the Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety second session (12th to 21st June 2013), has approved the Guidance on the validity of radio communication equipment installed and used on ships (MSC.1/Circ. 1460) requiring that the existing HF NBDP equipment be updated, so that it complies with the Radio Regulations in force.

3. Purpose

The Purpose of this Circular is to remind ship interests that, in order to ensure Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) communication capability, HF radio communication equipment capable of operating Narrow Band Direct Printing (NBDP) should be updated so that at the first radio survey after

1st January 2017, it meets the channelling arrangements reflected in sections II and III of part B in appendix 17 of the RR.

Most of the existing equipment is deemed to be compliant with the new requirements. However, in some cases the software equipment will have to be updated. If the existing equipment is unable to comply with the Radio Regulations, it will need to be replaced, and the newly installed HF NBDP equipment should be suitably type approved.

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MSC.1/Circ.1460
24 June 2013

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.