



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS  
नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

File No. 25-25/1/2024-NT-DGS (C.No.27268)  
(Nautical-Radio)

Date: 11.11.2024

**Merchant Shipping Notice No. 14 of 2024**

Subject: **Carriage requirement of Radio Communication equipment on board Indian ships and foreign ships while operating in Indian waters-reg.**

**For the attention of:**

Ship owners, Ship operators, Shipping managers, Ship Agents, Ship Masters, Recognized Organizations, Manufacturers, Surveyors, Indian Coast Guard (ICG), National Hydrographic Office (NHO), Maritime Training Institutes and other concerned stake holders.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this notice is to promulgate the COMSAR.1/Circ.32/Rev.2- Harmonization of GMDSS requirements for radio installations on board SOLAS vessels operating in Indian and Foreign waters.

**Background:**

1. The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), at its 105<sup>th</sup> session adopted amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974 which is implemented through resolution MSC.496(105) and is in force since 01 January 2024.
2. Considering the amendments to SOLAS Chapter IV, the Directorate General of Shipping have notified the amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974 through DGS Order 24 of 2023 dated 22 December 2023. The Directorate General of Shipping have also notified Implementation of Revised Performance Standards for GMDSS Radiocommunication Equipment as set out in Resolutions MSC.511(105), MSC.512(105) and MSC.513(105) through MS Notice 04 of 2024 dated 09 February 2024.
3. The Sub-Committee on Navigation, Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue (NCSR) at its 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> session, approved COMSAR.1/CIRC.32/Rev.2 – Revised Guidelines for the “Harmonization of GMDSS requirements for radio installations on board SOLAS ships” towards modernization of GMDSS.

**Requirement:**

4. Presently, for implementation of GMDSS, the entire Indian region is declared as Sea Area A3. The Sea Area A3 is covered under Recognized Mobile Satellite Service (RMSS) supported through INMARSAT service and/or Iridium Satellite services.

Page 1 of 4

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5. In order to comply with the functional requirements prescribed in SOLAS Chapter IV Regulation-4, every ship shall be provided with required radio installations for its intended voyage. For the Indian vessels and foreign vessels operating in Indian waters, Sea Area A3 and Sea Area A4, the carriage requirements of radio communication equipment under GMDSS for the SOLAS ships are set out in the Annexure-I attached to this Notice for compliance.

6. In addition, vessels operating in polar regions need to be comply with the additional requirements as set out in the Polar Code.

**Applicability:**

7. This notice is applicable for Indian ships including High Speed Crafts (HSCs) and Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODUs) operating in Sea Area A3, A4 and Indian waters. It is also applicable to foreign ships while operating in Indian waters.

8. Indian coastal ships except passenger ships, which are certified under coastal vessels notification, River Sea vessels notification and Inland vessel notification, and performing their voyages within coast of India i.e. within 20 nautical miles from base line, may continue to operate as per the existing rules and guidelines. The carriage requirement as set out in the Annexure-I is not applicable for such type of ships.

This is issued with the approval of Nautical Adviser to the Government of India.



Balunkeshor Mohapatra  
Senior Radio Surveyor-cum-ADG(Tech.)

Enclosure: Annexure-I- GMDSS equipment requirements in force for all types of Ships including High Speed Crafts and MODUs to which SOLAS and HSC Code applies.

**GMDSS equipment requirements in force for all types of Ships including High Speed Crafts and MODUs to which SOLAS and HSC Code applies.**

Equipment	A3	A4
<i>VHF telephony installation with DSC capable of:</i>	X	X
DSC watch on channel 70	X	X
Radiotelephony watch on channel 16	X	X
Watch on other appropriate frequency or frequencies for urgency and safety communications for the area in which the ship is navigating	X	X
<i>MF telephony<sup>1</sup> installation with MF DSC capable of:</i>	X	
DSC watch on 2 187.5 kHz	X	
Watch on other appropriate frequency or frequencies for urgency and safety communications for the area in which the ship is navigating	X	
<i>SES Providing RMSS</i>	X	
<i>MF/HF telephony installation with DSC capable of:</i>		X
DSC watch on 2 187.5 kHz and 8 414.5 kHz		X
Depending on time of day and geographical position, DSC watch on at least one of the frequencies 4207.5 kHz, 6312 kHz, 12577 kHz or 16804.5 kHz		X
Watch on other appropriate frequency or frequencies for urgency and safety communications for the area in which the ship is navigating		X
<i>Duplicated VHF with DSC</i>	X	X
<i>Duplicated MF<sup>1</sup> with DSC</i>		
<i>Duplicated SES<sup>3</sup> providing RMSS</i>	X	
<i>Duplicated MF/HF telephony<sup>1,3</sup> with DSC</i>	X	X
<i>Receiver(s) for MSI and SAR – related information<sup>4</sup></i>	X	X
<i>Float-free EPIRB</i>	X	X
<i>Radar SART or AIS SART<sup>2</sup></i>	X	X
<i>Portable GMDSS VHF transceivers<sup>2</sup></i>	X	X
<i>Automatic updating of position to all relevant Radiocommunication equipment</i>	X	X
<b><i>The following additional requirements apply to passenger ships</i></b>		
<i>“Distress Panel” and “Distress Alarm Panel” (SOLAS regulation IV/6.4 and 6.6)</i>	X	X
<i>Two-way on scene Radiocommunication on 121.5 MHz and 123.1 MHz from the navigating bridge. (SOLAS regulation IV/7.6)</i>	X	X



11/11/2024

**Remarks:** Method of ensuring availability of radio facilities to meet the maintenance requirement as specified in Regulation IV/15.6 & 15.7 to be clearly mentioned in the Safety Radio Certificate with the method and name of the equipment provided towards its compliance.

**Footnote:**

<sup>1</sup> In place of MF Radio Installation, MF/HF Radio Installation is accepted.

<sup>2</sup> Number of portable radio equipment is to be carried in accordance with Gross Tonnage of the ship.

<sup>3</sup> For Sea Area A3, a ship may choose duplication either with complete MF/HF Installation or with RMSS-SES with coverage equal to or broader than the primary RMSS for providing the required Redundancy.

<sup>4</sup> This may be either a combined SES and EGC receiver or separate pieces of equipment.

  
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