

Subject:

Exemption from installation of a Radio
Direction Finder on Panamanian Ships

NKTECHNICAL INFORMATION

No.: 163

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To Shipowners and shipbuilders concerned

Regulation V/12(p) of the 1988 Amendments to SOLAS 1974 specifies installation of a radio direction finder on ships of 1600GT and upward engaging on international voyages and exemption from installation of a radio direction finder under certain conditions.

In this respect, it has just been informed by the Panamanian Government that a radio direction finder may be exempted from its installation on board a Panamanian ship if the ship is fitted with radionavigation equipment suitable for use throughout its intended voyages, such as GPS (Global Positioning System) and NNSS (Navy Navigational Satellite System), on board.

Shipowners or shipbuilders who may wish to apply for exemption from installation of a radio direction finder for a Panamanian ship are requested to submit the respective application accompanying any documents of specifications of radionavigation equipment to be installed instead of a radio direction finder, directly or through the nearest branch office, to the head office of the Society. The branch office will issue an exemption certificate exempting the installation of a radio direction finder after the review of the documents is completed by the head office and the installation of radionavigation equipment is inspected by the branch office. The exemption certificate to be issued by the branch office will be a short term certificate with five month validity. A full term certificate with 24 month validity will be issued by the Panamanian Government on the basis of the information the Society will provide after the issue of the short term certificate.

The decision of the Government referred the above does not apply to Regulation V/12(q) requiring radio equipment for homing until 1 February 1999 for ships constructed on and after 25 May 1980 and before 1 February 1995.

Accordingly, a ship provided with a radio direction finder of which function is used for homing should keep installing the radio direction finder until 1 February 1999.

The End