

Subject :

Exemption from Application of GMDSS
Requirements in Chapter IV of SOLAS
Convention

NKTECHNICAL INFORMATION

No. : 284

Date : 5th November 1998

To shipowners and shipbuilders concerned,

Under the 1988 Amendments to SOLAS Convention relating to GMDSS, all ships should comply with the requirements of GMDSS radio equipment by 1 February 1999. It is also specified in Regulation 3 of Chapter IV that the Administrations may grant an exemption from the GMDSS requirements specified in Regulation 7 to 11 of Chapter IV with certain conditions.

The Liberian Government, the Marshall Islands Government and the Panamanian Government have notified the Society of the procedures for an exemption from the GMDSS requirements, which are briefly reproduced below for information/action.

For details, please refer to Technical Note of the Liberian Government /the Marshall Islands Government and Merchant Marine Circular N0.103 of the Panamanian Government attached hereto.

1. Liberian ships and Marshall Islands ships (ref. Technical Note)

The Liberian/Marshall Islands Government may grant an exemption from application of GMDSS requirements the ships which are being taken permanently out of service before 1 February 2001 subject to the following conditions being fulfilled by the shipowners of such ships.

Requests for exemption should reach the respective Government not later than 30 November, 1998.

- (1) Written statement of the shipowners that the ship is to be taken permanently out of service by 31 January 2001 is to be submitted.
- (2) The ship is to sail with qualified radio officer.
- (3) Radiotelephone station supplying the power from reserve source complying with SOLAS Chapter IV in force prior to 1 February 1992 is to be provided on board the ship so that distress and safety radiocommunications using radiotelephony on 2182kHz and VHF can be conducted in a "dead ship" situation.
- (4) VHF hand held radios, radartransponders, satellite EPIRB and NAVEX receiver are to be provided on board the ship.
- (5) The ship is to be complied with all functional requirements specified in current Regulation 4 of Chapter IV.

ClassNK NIPPON KAIJI KYOKAI
4-7, KIOI-CHO, CHIYODA-KU,
TOKYO 102-8567, JAPAN.

TELEX: J22975 CLASSNK
2324280 CLASNKJ
CABLE: CLASSNK TOKYO

The ship provided with all radio equipment shown below is considered to be met with this requirement.

- ① INMARSAT-C Ship Earth Station with EGC receiving function
- ② VHF radio installation with DSC function
- ③ Radartransponders and X-band radar
- ④ Satellite EPIRB

2. Panamanian ships (ref. Merchant Marine Circular No.103)

- (1) For the ship which is to be taken out of service within two years from 1 February 1999, the shipowners/shipoperators who wish to be exempted from compliance with the GMDSS requirements should submit a request to the Government prior to 1 February 1999.
- (2) Under special situations that may render the full application of Regulation 7 to 11 of Chapter IV of SOLAS Convention unreasonable or unnecessary, the shipowners/shipoperators who wish to be exempted from compliance of GMDSS requirements should submit a request with the following information via fax or e-mail:
 - (a) ship name,
 - (b) call sign,
 - (c) IMO number,
 - (d) gross tonnage,
 - (e) area of navigation,
 - (f) Sea area services provided within the area of navigation,
 - (g) request (be specific regarding SOLAS regulations that the request is about),
 - (h) SOLAS regulation on which the request is based on and
 - (i) special conditions

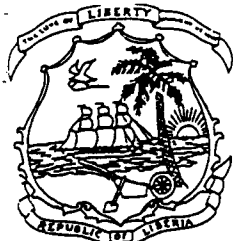
(3) Address Where the Request Should be Submitted

Directorate General of Merchant Marine, New York Office
Department of Maritime Safety
6 West 48th Street, 10 floor
New York, NY 10036,
U.S.A.
phone: ++1 (212) 869-6440
fax: ++1 (212) 575-2285/2288
e-mail: gsimons@segumar.com

The End

Attachments: Technical Note of Liberian Government and Marshall Islands Government, and Merchant Marine Circular No.103 of Panamanian Government.

Department in Charge : Material and Equipment Department
Tel : 03-5226-2020
Fax : 03-5226-2019



Office of
Deputy Commissioner
of Maritime Affairs

THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
BUREAU OF MARITIME AFFAIRS

September 17, 1998

Tower 40
12 EAST 49th STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10017-1028
TELEPHONE
REGISTRATION: (212) 486-0042
OPERATIONS: (703) 620-4880
TELEX
REGISTRATION: 244347 IRI UR
OPERATIONS: 248736 IRI UR
FAX: (212) 486-5313

TECHNICAL NOTE

ATTN: Director Regulatory Affairs/Statutory Services

SUBJECT: GMDSS EXEMPTION FOR VESSELS WHICH ARE TO BE TAKEN
PERMANENTLY OUT OF SERVICE BEFORE 1 FEBRUARY 2001

Gentlemen:

The Administration has taken the position that vessels which are being taken permanently out of service before 1 February 2001, may be exempted from GMDSS compliance subject to the following requirements being fulfilled by the shipowners of such vessels.

- Shipowner to provide a written statement that the vessel is to be taken permanently out of service on or before 31 January, 2001.
- Vessel to sail with qualified radio officer.
- Vessel to have a radiotelephone station complying with SOLAS Chapter IV-text in force prior to 1 February 1992. This would include provision of a reserve source of electrical energy. It should be possible to conduct distress and safety radiocommunications using radiotelephony on medium frequency (2182kHz) and VHF in a "dead ship" situation.
- The following GMDSS apparatus must be on board: VHF hand held radios, SARTS, Satellite EPIRB, NAVTEX.
- Regarding the requirements of SOLAS (1988 Amendments) Chapter IV, Regulation 4, every ship, while at sea, shall be capable of:
 - .1 transmitting ship-to-shore distress alerts by at least two separate and independent means, each using a different radiocommunication service:
SOLUTION: Primary - INMARSAT C; Secondary - Satellite EPIRB;
 - .2 receiving shore-to ship distress alerts:
SOLUTION: EGC (INMARSAT C);
 - .3 transmitting and receiving ship-to-ship distress alerts:
SOLUTION: VHF-DSC & VHF Channel 16;
 - .4 transmitting & receiving search & rescue coordination communications:
SOLUTION: INMARSAT C with EGC;

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- .5 transmitting & receiving on-scene communications:
SOLUTION: VHF;
- .6 transmitting, and as required by SOLAS, Reg.'s V/12 (g) and (h), receiving signals for locating:
SOLUTION: SARTS & X-Band radar;
- .7 transmitting & receiving Marine Safety Info(MSI):
SOLUTION: INMARSAT C with EGC;
- .8 transmitting & receiving general radiocommunications to & from shore-based radio systems or networks:
SOLUTION: INMARSAT C; and
- .9 transmitting & receiving bridge-to-bridge communications:
SOLUTION: VHF.

Requests for exemption should reach the Administration not later than 30 November, 1998. The request should state that the above fitting and crewing requirements have been, or will be achieved not later than 1 February, 1999.

VOID



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

Office of the
Maritime Administrator

September 17, 1998

TECHNICAL NOTE

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- .5 transmitting & receiving on-scene communications:
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- .6 transmitting, and as required by SOLAS, Reg.'s V/12 (g) and (h), receiving signals for locating:
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SOLUTION: INMARSAT C; and
- .9 transmitting & receiving bridge-to-bridge communications:
SOLUTION: VHF.

Requests for exemption should reach the Administration not later than 30 November, 1998. The request should state that the above fitting and crewing requirements have been, or will be achieved not later than 1 February, 1999.

VOID



REPUBLIC OF PANAMA
Ministry of Finance and Treasury

Office of the Directorate of
Consular and Maritime Affairs

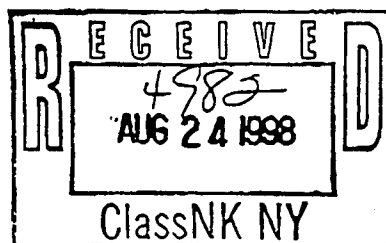
Merchant Marine Circular No.103

To: Owners/Operators of Panamanian flag Vessels, Class Societies and Authorized Organizations

Subject: GMDSS equipment requirements

Regarding the installation of GMDSS equipment on vessels or units that carry the Panamanian flag the following:

1. The Sea Areas are determined by the Contracting governments on land that can provide the Sea Area services. For this reason any vessel or unit that operates solely within the territorial waters of any given coastal state shall comply with the Coastal State requirements for the GMDSS equipment.
2. For vessels that engage in international trade along the coast, they shall determine what Sea Areas services are provided within their area of navigation so as to establish the GMDSS equipment needed. For this information you need to contact the NAVAREA coordinators or the Coastal States involved. They should be able to provide literature regarding this and probably a recommendation for the equipment. Please find attached a list of NAVAREA coordinators and a NAVAREA map.
3. In the case that a vessel trades along the coast and no Sea Area A1 or A2 services are provided, the vessel shall be fitted for Sea Area A3 equipment.
4. If a vessel or unit will be taken out of service within two years of 1 February 1999 the operator/owners can obtain an exemption for some requirements of GMDSS if they contact the administration prior to 1 February 1999. There is no guarantee of approval for any requests received after that date.
5. For special situations that may render the full application of SOLAS Chapter IV Regulations 7 to 11 unreasonable or unnecessary please contact our office via fax or email. Send your request with the following information:
(a) vessel name,



- (b) call letters,
- (c) IMO number,
- (d) gross tonnage,
- (e) area of navigation,
- (f) Sea Area services provided within the area of navigation,
- (g) request (be specific regarding SOLAS regulations that the request is about),
- (h) SOLAS regulation on which the request is based on,
- (i) special conditions

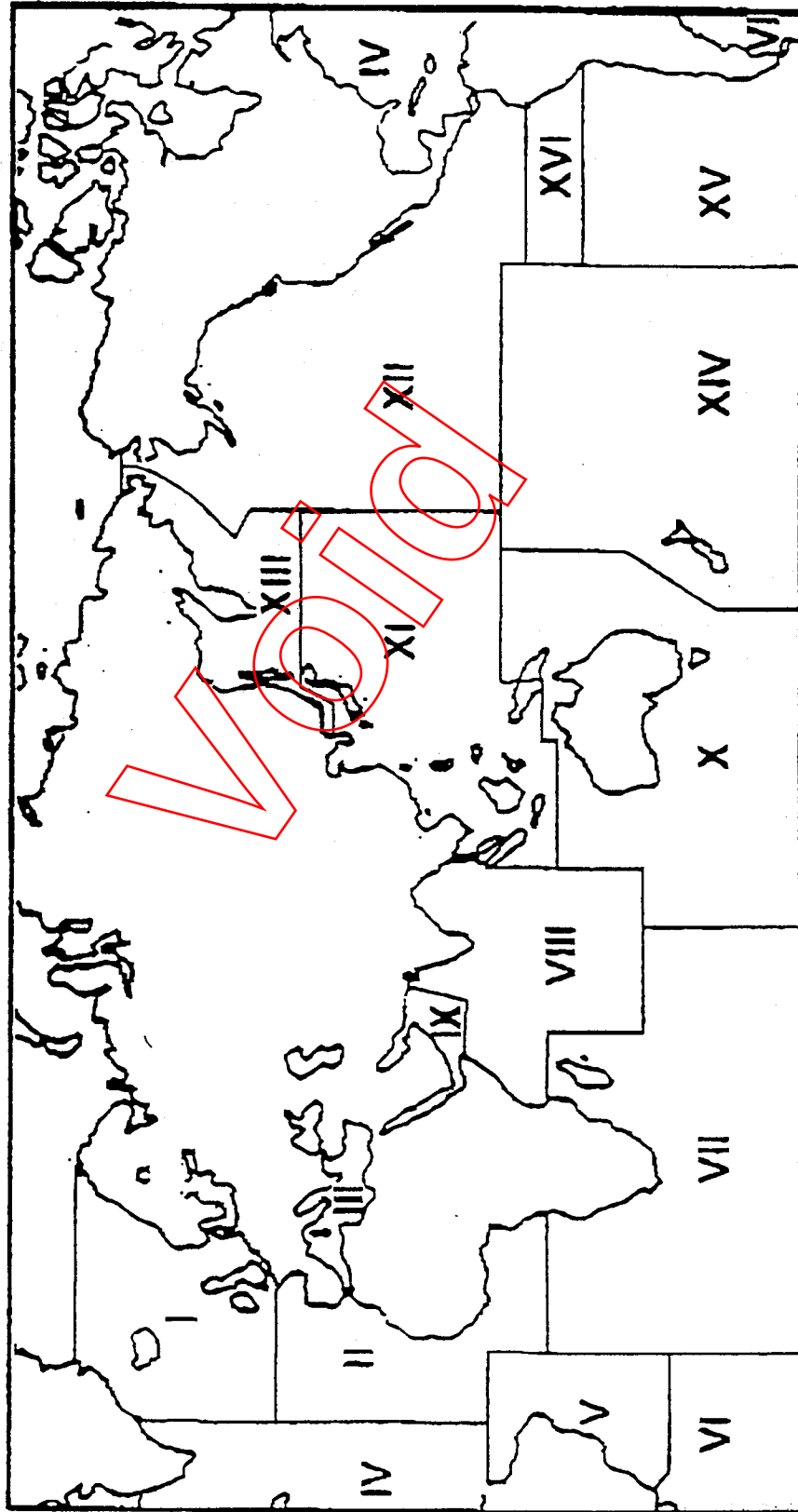
August 1998

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular or any requests should be directed to:
Directorate General of Merchant Marine, New York Office
Department of Maritime Safety
6 West 48th Street, 10 floor
New York, NY 10036,
U.S.A.

phone: ++1 (212) 869-6440
fax: ++1 (212) 575-2285 / 2288
email: gsimons@segumar.com

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NAVAREAS



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ANNEX

NAVAREA CO-ORDINATORS

NAVAREA I

United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
Admiralty Way
TAUNTON
Somerset TA1 2DN
England
Ph: +44 1823 337900 X 3289
Telex: 46464 HYDRNW G
FAX: +44 1823 322352

(Baltic Sea Sub-Area):

Co-ordinator
Hydrographic Department
S-601 78 NORRKOPING
Sweden
Ph: +46 11 19 11 19 (24 H)
(0700-1500h UTC)
Telex: 64320 BALTICO S
(0700-1500h UTC)
16060 STORDO S
(1500-0700h UTC)
FAX: +46 11 13 39 03

NAVAREA II

Monsieur le Directeur de l'Etablissement
principal du SHOM
BP 426
29275 BREST CEDEX
France
Ph: +33 (2) 98 22 15 99
Telex: FRANAUT 940861 F
Teleg: ETABHYDROC BREST
FAX: +33 (2) 98 22 14 32

NAVAREA III

Instituto Hidrografico de la Marina
Tolosa Latour No. 1
11007 - CADIZ
Spain
Ph: +34 (56) 599399/599409
Telex: 76147 MEDCO E, 76102 MARIH E
Teleg: Instituto Hidrografico, CADIZ, Spain
FAX: +34 (56) 599396/275358

NAVAREA IV

National Imagery and Mapping Agency
Attn: GIM (Mail Stop D-44)
4600 Sangamore Road
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USA
Ph: +1 (301) 227 3370
Telex: 898334/EASYLINK MBS 62554950
Teleg: DMAHTC WASHINGTON DC
FAX: +1 (301) 227 3731, 227 4211

NAVAREA V

Director
Diretoria de Hidrografia e Navegação
Rua Barão de Jaceguay S/Nº
Ponta da Armação
24048-900 - NITEROI - RJ
Brazil
Ph: +55 (21) 620 0073, 620 2626
Telex: 2134043 MMAR BR
2153259 MMAR BR
2153260 MMAR BR
2153261 MMAR BR
2133858 MMAR BR
Teleg: NAVEMAR
FAX: +55 (21) 620 7921, 620 0073

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ANNEX

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NAVAREA VI

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Telex: 27054, Racel AR (Attn: SIHN)
Teleg: Jeserhidro, Buenos Aires
FAX: +54 1 303 2299; 301 2249

NAVAREA VII

Hydrographic Office
Republic of South Africa
Private Bag X1, Tokai
7966 CAPE TOWN
South Africa
Ph: +27 (021) 787 2408
Telex: 527946
Teleg: HYDROSAN CAPETOWN
FAX: +27 (021) 787 2228

NAVAREA VIII

The Chief Hydrographer
to the Government of India
Post Box 75
DEHRA DUN - 248001 (U.P.)
India
Ph: 0091 - 0135-747361
Telex: 585-220 (Answerback is 585-220)
HYDR IN
Teleg: HYDRO, DEHRA DUN
FAX: 0091-0135-748 373

NAVAREA IX

Hydrographic department
Naval Headquarters
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Pakistan
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FAX: +92 51 920 8897

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NAVEREA X

Manager, Maritime Safety Services
Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)
PO Box 1108
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Australia
Ph: Canberra +61 (6) 2534400
Telex: 62349 (MRCCAUS)
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NAVAREA XI

The Chief Hydrographer
Kaijohsan-Cho, Suiro-Bu
(Hydrographic Department
Maritime Safety Agency)
3-1, Tsukiji, 5-chome
Chuo-ku, TOKYO 104
Japan
Ph: +81 (3) 3541-3817
Telex: 2522222 JAHYD J
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FAX: +81 (3) 3248-1250

NAVAREA XII

National Imagery and Mapping Agency
Attn: GIM (Mail Stop D-44)
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BETHESDA, MD 20816-5003
USA
Ph: +1 (301) 227 3370
Telex: 898334/EASYLINK MBX
62554950
Teleg: DMAHTC WASHINGTON DC
FAX: +1 (301) 227-3731, 227-4211

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NAVAREA XIII

Chief, Head Department of Navigation and
Oceanography
8,11 Liniya, B-34
ST. PETERSBURG 199034
Russian Federation
Ph: +7 812 213 8109
Telex: 121531 NAVIO RU
Teleg: ST. PETERSBURG
HYDROGRAPHIA
FAX: +7 812 213 7548

NAVAREA XV

Director del Servicio Hidrográfico
y Oceanográfico de la Armada
Casilla 324
VALPARAISO
Chile
Ph: +56 32 282697, 282704
Telex: 230362 HIDRO CL
Teleg: Hidro-Valparaiso
FAX: +56 32 283537

NAVAREA XIV

The Hydrographer,
Royal New Zealand Navy
Hydrographic Office
PO Box 33341, Takapuna
AUCKLAND 9
New Zealand
Ph: +64 (9) 489 7227
FAX: +64 (9) 489 5063

NAVAREA XVI

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de la Marina
Av. Gamarra No.500
Chucuito
CALLAO 1
Perú
Ph: +51 14 658312/296019
Telex: 26024 PE HIDRONAV
Teleg: HIDRONAV, PERU
FAX: +51 14 658312/652995

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