

Subject:

Experimental Implementation of
Equivalent Arrangements to
Radiotelegraph Station on Panamanian
Flag Ships

NK TECHNICAL INFORMATION

No. 66

Date: 11 December 1987

To Shipowners and Shipbuilders concerned

The Panamanian Government decided to accept the installation of a ship earth station an equivalent to the main radiotelegraph installation, and a radiotelephone station as equivalent to the reserve radiotelegraph installation on board the ship in the Panamanian Registry for taking necessary and experimental steps toward facilitation to introduce the GMDSS (Global Maritime Distress and Safety System).

For your ready reference a copy of IMO Circular, in which the general requirements to be met in order to consider the stations as equivalent, is attached hereto.

The Panamanian Government accepts the aforementioned equivalent arrangements on a case by case basis. If you are interested in this experimental implementation of equivalent arrangements, please contact the Head Office of this Society and ask for the further information.

* * * * *

encl.



INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT,
LONDON SE1 7SR

Telephone: 01-735 7611

Telegrams: INTERMAR-LONDON SE1

Telex: 23588



SLS.14/Circ.72
5 March 1987

IMO

Ref. T1/2.08

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974

Equivalent arrangements accepted under
regulation 5 of chapter I

RADIO INSTALLATION

Statement by the Government of the Republic of Panama

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Government of the Republic of Panama under the provisions of regulation 5, chapter I of the above Convention.

The Secretary-General would be grateful if steps could be taken to bring this information to the attention of the appropriate authorities.

W/5801E*

Radio InstallationStatement by the Republic of Panama

Regulation 5 of Chapter I of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, (SOLAS) 1974, provides that Administrations may allow other provisions to be accepted if it is satisfied that the provisions accepted are at least as effective as that required by the present regulations. Additionally, in consonance with efforts to facilitate the introduction of the FGMDSS, early trials of operational use of equipment prescribed for or identified with the FGMDSS in lieu of the standard radio systems and operational practices would be most useful for the transitional period.

- 1 The Government of the Republic of Panama gives notification that it has decided to accept the installation of a ship earth station as equivalent to the main radiotelegraph installation, and a radiotelephone station as equivalent to the reserve radiotelegraph installation on board ships in the Panamanian registry.
- 2 The following general requirements are to be met in order to consider the stations as equivalent:
 - 2.1 Ship earth station:
 - 2.1.1 It should be of a type approved by INMARSAT.
 - 2.1.2 This installation should be capable of handling both telephone and telex traffic, including Distress, Urgency and Safety traffic.
 - 2.1.3 Electrical power should be provided from the ship's main electrical source of power and from the ship's reserve source of power, unless the station has its own reserve source of energy.
 - 2.1.4 In order to avoid interference, the antenna shall be located as high as possible and free of obstacles so as to remain within the visibility of the satellite.
 - 2.1.5 The antenna should be sufficiently separated from other antennas to avoid mutual interference.
 - 2.1.6 The station should be located in an optimal location and installed in accordance with existing requirements.
 - 2.1.7 A signal indicator giving notification of incoming traffic should be located on the bridge.
 - 2.2 Radiotelephone station:
 - 2.2.1 Stations shall comply with the provisions of Regulations 15 and 16, Chapter IV of SOLAS 74.

- 3 In addition to both stations (Ship earth and radiotelephone stations), vessels for which the equivalency is being applied shall be provided with the following:
- 3.1 A radiotelegraph auto alarm providing a warning on the bridge and in the radio station.
 - 3.2. A NAVTEX receiver on the bridge.
 - 3.3 An automatically activated tape recorder for listening in the 500 kHz frequency for the minimum intervals of time from 14 to 19 minutes and 44 to 49 minutes after the hour so as to include the two silent periods. Additionally the tape recorder shall be switched on automatically when an alarm is received on the radiotelegraph auto alarm. This tape recorder may not be used for any other purpose.
 - 3.4 A VHF radiotelephone station on the bridge complying with Regulation 17 of the 1981 Amendments to SOLAS 74.
 - 3.5 A satellite Emergency Position Radio Beacon (EPIRB) operating on a frequency of 406 MHz and installed in a float free position close to the bridge.
- 4 All watchstanding deck officers shall have a permit or licence to operate the radiotelephone station and the ship earth station, and be able to maintain the radio log.
- 5 Maintenance of the station may be carried out by means of:
- The ship's own qualified personnel; or
 - duplication of equipment; or
 - service from ashore; or
 - a combination of the above.

- NOTES: 1- This equivalency does not apply to vessels in service in Polar areas outside the range of INMARSAT.
- 2- Digital Selective Calling (DSC) is to be fitted when available and operational.
-