

Subject:

Alternative arrangements to radio
life-saving apparatus provided on
board the Liberian flag ships

NK TECHNICAL INFORMATION

No. 81

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To Shipowners and Shipbuilders concerned

We have received a notice from the Liberian Government stating that taking account of the IMO recommendation of encouraging the early implementation of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) provisions with respect to radio life-saving apparatus, the said Government accepts alternative arrangements, which are set out in the attached sheets hereto, to radio life-saving apparatus prescribed by Reg.III/6.2 of the current 74 SOLAS as amended.

It is further advised that if Statelife EPIRB and/or Radar Transponder are provided following this notice, they will be continuously accepted as they are after the entry into force of the GMDSS.

Attach:



Alternative arrangements to radio life-saving apparatus
provided on board the Liberian flag ships

I. Application

A. All ships

The following apparatus are acceptable as alternatives to "Portable radio apparatus (III/ 6.2.1)" and "Survival craft EPIRB (III/ 6.2.3)".

- (1) One "Satellite EPIRB" with a homing or locating function operating on 121.5 / 243 MHz ; or
- (2) One "Satellite EPIRB" and two "Survival craft EPIRBs" ; or
- (3) One "Satellite EPIRB" and two "Radar transponders"

B. Existing ships under the 83 Amendments to 74 SOLAS

The following apparatus may be acceptable as alternatives to "Portable radio apparatus" until 1 July 1991.

- (1) One "Satellite EPIRBs" with a homing or locating function operating on 121.5 / 243 MHz ; or
- (2) One "Satellite EPIRBs" and two "Radar transponders"

Note) For the existing ships, the relevant regulations of 83 Amendments to 74 SOLAS require only one "Portable radio apparatus" as radio life-saving apparatus until 1 July 1991.

II. Requirements for the apparatus

Every apparatus should be of a type approved by the Administration and meet the following requirements of the GMDSS.

(406 MHz Satellite EPIRB approved by COSPAS-SARSAT may be acceptable by the Liberian Government.)

A. Radar Transponder

A radar transponder capable of operating in the 9 GHz band shall be so stowed in such locations that it can be rapidly placed in any survival craft.

B. Satellite EPIRB

A satellite EPIRB shall be :

- (1) capable of transmitting a distress alert either through the polar orbiting satellite service operating in the 406 MHz band or, if the ship is engaged only on voyages within INMARSAT coverage, through the INMARSAT geostationary satellite service operating in the 1.6 GHz band* ;
- * subject to the availability of appropriate receiving and processing ground facilities for each ocean region covered by INMARSAT satellites.
- (2) installed in an easily accessible position ;
- (3) ready to be manually released and capable of being carried by one person into a survival craft ;
- (4) capable of floating free if the ship sinks and of being automatically activated when afloat ; and
- (5) capable of being activated manually.

VOID