



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



NT-Radio/Circular No. 10 of 2023

F.No.25-25011/14/2022-NT-DGS

Date: 16.03.2023

Sub.: **Testing and maintenance of EPIRB, and testing of other GMDSS radioequipment by approved service stations or shore-based maintenance facilities-reg.**

Whereas, SOLAS Regulation 7.1.5, specifies that every ship shall be provided with an EPIRB, and Regulation 15.9, specifies testing and maintenance requirements of EPIRB. The requirements are indicated as below;

a) EPIRB shall be annually tested, either on board the ship or at an approved testing station, for all aspects of operational efficiency, with special emphasis on checking the emission on operational frequencies, coding and registration, at intervals as specified below;

i) on passenger ships, within three months before the expiry date of the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate; and

ii) on cargo ships, within three months before the expiry date, or within three months before or after the anniversary date, of the Cargo Ship Safety Certificate; and

b) EPIRB shall be subject to maintenance at intervals not exceeding five years, which is to be performed by an approved shore-based maintenance facility.

2. The testing and maintenance of EPIRB should be carried out on board ships or at an approved testing station by appropriately trained and approved personnel using suitable test equipment in accordance with the guidelines of MSC Circular nos. MSC.1/Circ.1039/Rev.1 and MSC.1/Circ.1040/Rev.2, for five-yearly and annually respectively.

3. It is observed during annual and renewal safety radio surveys on board ships that, firms not approved by DG Shipping are carrying out the testing, repairing and maintenance of EPIRBs and issuing annual and five-yearly Shore-based Maintenance certificates (SBMC). Same time testing of other GMDSS radio equipment are also done by attending radio technicians from these non-DG Shipping approved radio firms.

4. The unauthorized means of testing or any deviation from the standardized procedures and minimum levels of service for the testing of EPIRBs as enumerated in the MSN 11 of 2022, and testing of other GMDSS radio equipment as outlined in Merchant Shipping Distress & Safety Radiocommunication Rules, 1995, may lead to serious operational complications and the risk of false distress alerting.

5. In view of the foregoing, it is emphasized that annual testing and maintenance of EPIRB, and testing of other GMDSS radio equipment on board ships during safety radio surveys should always be carried out by a DG Shipping approved service station or approved shore-based maintenance facility.

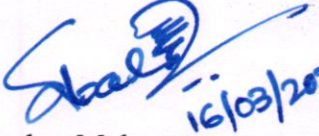
Page 1 of 2

9वीं मंजिल, बीटा बिल्डिंग, आई थिंक टेक्नो कैंपस, कांजुर गाँव रोड, कांजुरमार्ग (पूर्व) मुंबई- 400042

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6. The surveyors of MMD/DGS and IRS are advised to ensure strict compliance with this circular during annual/periodical/renewal safety radio survey of ships.
7. This is issued with the approval of Director General of Shipping.


16/03/2023

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

To,

- 1) The Principal Officer,
Mercantile Marine Department,
Mumbai/Kolkata/Chennai/Kochi/Kandla.
- 2) The Indian Register of Shipping, HOD-STAT (STS Division), Adi Shankaracharya
Marg, Powai.
- 3) INSA/ICCSA for necessary compliance.

Copy to:

Surveyor In-Charge,
Mercantile Marine Department,
Jamnagar/Goa/New Mangalore/Tuticorin/Vishakhapattanam/Paradip/Haldia/Port
Blair.