

Draft

File No. 25-25/1/2024-NT-DGS (C.No.27268)

Date: xx.09.2024

Nautical-Radio Circular

DGS Circular No. xx of 2024

Subject: Carriage requirement of Radio Communication equipment on board Indian and foreign ships operating in Indian waters-reg.

1. Whereas, the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), at its 105th session has adopted amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974 which is implemented through resolution MSC.496(105) and is in force since 01 January 2024.
2. Whereas, the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue (NCSR) at its 9th & 10th session, considering the amendments to SOLAS Chapter IV adopted by resolution MSC.496(105) and other related instruments emanating from the modernization of the GMDSS, approved COMSAR.1/CIRC.32/Rev.2 – Revised Guidelines for the “Harmonization of GMDSS Requirements for Radio Installations on Board SOLAS ships”.
3. Whereas, the Directorate General of Shipping have notified the aforesaid amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974 through DGS Order 24 of 2023 dated 22 December 2023.
4. Whereas, the Directorate General of Shipping have also notified Implementation of Revised Performance Standards for GMDSS Radiocommunication Equipment as set out in Resolutions MSC.511(105), MSC.512(105) and MSC.513(105) through MS Notice 04 of 2024 dated 09 February 2024.
5. Since there are no existing DSC facilitated Coast Radio Stations in Indian waters for Sea Areas A1 and A2, the entire Indian Sea region falls under Sea Area A3 and is covered under Recognized Mobile Satellite Service (RMSS) supported through INMARSAT service and/or Iridium Satellite service.
6. To comply with the functional requirements prescribed by Regulation 4 of SOLAS Chapter IV, every ship shall be provided with radio installations for its intended voyage. For performing voyages in Indian waters, the equipment requirements for SOLAS ships are attached as Annexure-I to this Circular.
7. Having adopted the amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and the COMSAR.1/CIRC.32/Rev.2, the Directorate invites the attention of all Ship owners, Ship operators, Shipping managers, Ship Masters, Recognized Organizations, Manufacturers and Surveyors to ensure compliance to requirements of this circular.
8. Indian coastal ships except passenger ships, which are certified under coastal vessels notification, River Sea vessels notification and inland vessel notification and performing their voyages within coast of India i.e. within 20 nautical miles from base line, are continuing to operate in the extant rules and guidelines. The carriage requirement as stated in the Annexure-I is not applicable for such type of ships.

Enclosure: Annexure-I- GMDSS equipment requirements for SOLAS ships.

GMDSS equipment requirements in force for all ships to which SOLAS Chapter IV applies:

Equipment	A3	A4
<i>VHF telephony installation with DSC capable of:</i>	X	X
DSC watch on channel 70	X	X
Radiotelephony watch on channel 16	X	X
Watch on other appropriate frequency or frequencies for urgency and safety communications for the area in which the ship is navigating	X	X
<i>MF telephony¹ installation with MF DSC capable of:</i>	X	
DSC watch on 2 187.5 kHz	X	
Watch on other appropriate frequency or frequencies for urgency and safety communications for the area in which the ship is navigating	X	
<i>SES Providing RMSS</i>	X	
<i>MF/HF telephony installation with DSC capable of:</i>		X
DSC watch on 2 187.5 kHz and 8 414.5 kHz		X
Depending on time of day and geographical position, DSC watch on at least one of the frequencies 4207.5 kHz, 6312 kHz, 12577 kHz or 16804.5 kHz		X
Watch on other appropriate frequency or frequencies for urgency and safety communications for the area in which the ship is navigating		X
<i>Duplicated VHF with DSC</i>	X	X
<i>Duplicated MF¹with DSC</i>		
<i>Duplicated SES³ providing RMSS</i>	X	
<i>Duplicated MF/HF telephony^{1,3} with DSC</i>	X	X
<i>Receiver(s) for MSI and SAR – related information³</i>	X	X
<i>Float-free EPIRB</i>	X	X
<i>Radar SART or AIS SART²</i>	X	X
<i>Portable GMDSS VHF transceivers²</i>	X	X
<i>Automatic updating of position to all relevant Radiocommunication equipment</i>	X	X
<i>The following additional requirements apply to passenger ships</i>		
<i>“Distress Panel” and “Distress Alarm Panel” (SOLAS regulation IV/6.4 and 6.6)</i>	X	X
<i>Two-way on scene Radiocommunication on 121.5 MHz and 123.1 MHz from the navigating bridge. (SOLAS regulation IV/7.6)</i>	X	X

Remarks: Method of ensuring availability of radio facilities to meet the maintenance requirement as specified in Regulation IV/15.6 & 15.7 to be clearly mentioned in the Safety Radio Certificate with the method and name of the equipment provided towards its compliance.

Footnote:

¹ In place of MF Radio Installation, MF/HF Radio Installation is accepted.

² Number of portable radio equipment is to be carried in accordance with Gross Tonnage of the ship.

³ For Sea Area A3, a ship may choose duplication either with complete MF/HF Installation or with RMSS-SES with coverage equal to or broader than the primary RMSS for providing the required redundancy.