



South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref: SM6/5/2/1

Date: 11 September 2013

Marine Notice 24 of 2013

Merchant Shipping (Radio Installations) Amendment Regulations, 2013. Carriage Requirements

TO ALL REGIONAL MANAGERS, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, **SHORE BASED RADIO TECHNICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS**, ACCREDITED MARINE RADIO TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, SHIP OWNERS, MASTERS, SHIP'S OFFICERS AND AFFECTED PARTIES

Summary

This explanatory marine notice draws attention to the changes brought about by the Merchant Shipping (Radio Installation) Amendment Regulations 2013 (GNR457/GG36623) read with the Merchant Shipping (Safe Manning, Training and Certification) Regulations, 2013, Regulation 103 (GNR511/36688 of 23 July 2013).

1. **For the purposes of this Marine Notice the following acronyms and definitions apply:**
 - 1.1 **DSC** – Digital Selective Calling.
 - 1.2 **SRC** – Short Range Certificate - Radio Operator Certificate for use of **VHF DSC** Radiotelephone installations.
 - 1.3 **LRC** – Long Range Certificate - Radio Operator Certificate for use of **MF/HF DSC** Radiotelephone installations.
 - 1.4 **SOLAS** Requirements of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea – These regulations apply to convention ships
 - 1.5 **NON-SOLAS** Requirements – These regulations apply to non-convention ships.
 - 1.6 **ITU** – International Telecommunication Union.
 - 1.7 **STCW** - International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for seafarers, 1978 as amended.
 - 1.8 **GT** – Gross Tonnage.
 - 1.9 **Convention Ship Means** –
 - 1.9.1 A foreign-going passenger ship; or
 - 1.9.2 A foreign-going cargo ship of 300 tons or more
 - 1.10 **Non-Convention Ship means-**
 - 1.10.1 A passenger ship that is not foreign-going;
 - 1.10.2 A cargo ship of 300 tons or more that is not foreign-going;
 - 1.10.3 A cargo ship of less than 300 tons;
 - 1.10.4 A fishing vessel; or
 - 1.10.5** A pleasure vessel

The following Regulations have been amended-

- 2 – Definitions. COSPAS-SARSAT; EGC; GMDSS RADIO OPERATOR CERTIFICATES; GROSS TONNAGE; INTERNATIONAL NAVTEX SERVICE; RADIOTELEPHONE OPERATOR; RADIO OPERATOR CERTIFICATES; SART; SILENCE PERIOD;
- Heading of Part 2;
- 18 - Radio Operators;
- Heading of Part 3;
- 22 – DSC Carriage Requirements;
- 29 – Use of VHF DSC Radiotelephone Installations; (**SRC** requirement).

- 30 – VHF Radio Watches;
- 31 – Radiotelephone Installation – Clock requirements;
- 32 – Radiotelephone Distress Frequency Watch Receiver antenna;
- 35 – Radio Watch for Radiotelephone ship;
- 36 – Radiotelephone Operators as per Safe Manning; (**LRC Requirement**).
- 38 – Pleasure vessels of 100 Gross Tonnage or more added;
- 39 – Free Fall Lifeboats fitted with SARTS;
- Annex 1 – Satellite EPIRBs;
- Annex 2 – GMDSS Equipment Tests – EPIRB checks;
- Annex 4 – Tools, Testing Equipment and Spare Parts;
- Annex 5 – Non-SOLAS Equipment Tests and Battery and Reserve Energy Checks – Note the additional checks on EPIRB's.

2. AMENDED CARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS - (VESSELS OF 25 GT OR MORE INCLUDING PLEASURE VESSELS OF 100 GT OR MORE).

- 2.1 Introduction of new radio operator certificates (**Refer to MN No 20 of 2012**) and Merchant Shipping (Safe Manning, Training and Certification) Regulations, 2013.
 - 2.1.1 **GMDSS Radio Operator certificates.(ITU AND STCW)**
 - 2.1.1.1 GMDSS First-Class Radio Electronic Certificate. Refer to **Safe Manning**.
 - 2.1.1.2 GMDSS Second-Class Radio Electronic Certificate. **Refer to Safe Manning**.
 - 2.1.2 Radiotelephone Operator Certificates.(ITU)
 - 2.1.2.1 **LRC. Refer to MSRR Regulation 36 and Safe Manning.**
 - 2.1.2.2 **SRC. Refer to MSRR Regulation 29 and Safe Manning.**

3. SOLAS REQUIREMENTS.

- 3.1 Regulation 18 (1) (a) – Radio Operators – the GMDSS **Restricted Operator's Certificate** has been removed as a requirement and was replaced by **GMDSS General Operator's Certificate**.

4. NON-SOLAS REQUIREMENTS.

- 4.1 DSC **Channel 70** transceiver unit – **Refer to Regulation 22**.
- 4.2 **DSC Watch Receiver** on Channel 70 - **Refer to Regulations 22 and 30**.
- 4.3 **MF/HF Radiotelephone Transceiver** capable of **DSC** and **Radiotelephony** - **Refer to Regulation 22**.
- 4.4 **MF/HF DSC Watchkeeping Receiver** on 2187.5 and 8414.5 kHz and one of 4207.5; 6312; 12577; 16804 kHz - **Refer to Regulation 22 and 35**
- 4.5 GPS position updating. (Recommended). **Refer to Regulation 22**.
- 4.6 **Silence Periods** have been abolished, See definition of Silence Period together with the relevant markings of the clock - **Refer regulation 31 (3)**.
- 4.7 **Bridge Watch Receiver** is abolished together with its relevant antenna. **Refer Regulation 31(7)**.
- 4.8 **Two-Tone Alarm** signal is abolished. **Refer Regulation 31 (7)**.
- 4.9 **Pleasure Vessels** of 100 Gross Tonnage or more-
 - 4.9.1 Regulation 22, implementing DSC on VHF and MF/HF with all of the above as required.
 - 4.9.2 Radio Life-Saving Equipment – Portable Two-Way VHF. **Refer Regulation 38 (3) (c)**.
- 4.10 **Radio Life-Saving Equipment** – SART mounted in Free-Fall lifeboat. **Refer Regulation 39 (4)**.
- 4.11 **Annex 2 – GMDSS Equipment Tests and Reserve Energy checks-**
 - 4.11.1 Regulation 3 – tests and **checks on EPIRB's** now includes battery, magnet, and operation as per manufacturer's specification.
- 4.12 **NON-SOLAS Equipment tests and Battery and Reserve Energy checks-**
 - 4.12.1 Regulation 1 and 2 amended-
 - 4.12.1.1 Watch Receiver requirements abolished
 - 4.12.2 Regulation 3 – **EPIRB checks** now includes operation as per manufacturer's specifications, Battery Expiry date and built-in Magnet.
 - 4.12.3 **DSC Facility** functions checks.

5. Implementation methodology-

- 5.1 Compliance with the amended Merchant Shipping (Radio Installation) Regulations not later than 1 July 2015.
- 5.2 Until such date, Regulation 16 “Employment of Certificated Radio Operators” as reflected in the “Merchant Shipping (Safe Manning Regulations), 1999” will be accepted.

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