



South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref: SM6/5/2/1

Date: 31 March 2017

Marine Notice No 8 of 2017

Minimum Output Power Requirements for Marine VHF Radio's fitted on South African Registered and Licenced Vessels

TO ALL REGIONAL MANAGERS, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, SAMSMA SURVEYORS, SHORE BASED RADIO TECHNICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS, SHIP OWNERS, MASTERS, SHIP'S OFFICERS AND AFFECTED PARTIES

Summary

Capability of marine VHF radio's to deliver adequate output power

Background-

Manufacturers of Marine VHF transceivers, specify the RF output power in the Technical Specifications Section of their products' handbook. This specification is in accordance with International standards and is typically 25 Watts (High Power) and 1 Watt (Low Power).

Experience-

SAMSMA Radio Surveyors are increasingly encountering existing and new ship radio installations with VHF radio's delivering output power of less than that specified in the technical specifications section of the product handbook.

Solution-

All marine radio dealers are to ensure that new marine VHF radio's output power are set to the manufacturer's specifications as listed in the product handbook. All marine radio service companies are to ensure that existing marine VHF radio's output power are set to the manufacturer's specifications as listed in the product handbook. In line with International best practice, SAMSMA will accept a normal RF output power of 23 – 25 Watts. The RF output power should under no circumstances exceed the maximum permissible output power of 25 Watts.

31 March 2017

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