



South African Maritime Safety Authority

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Date: 23 October 2015

Marine Notice No. 24 of 2015

UNIFORM RADIO INSPECTION PROCESS FOR CATEGORY A VESSELS ON INTERNATIONAL DELIVERY VOYAGES

INTERPRETATION OF ANNEX 2-

- 1) CAPABLE OF OPERATING (ITEM 18); See Annex
- 2) CAPABLE OF TRANSMITTING (ITEM 20) See Annex

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

Summary

Inspection of EPIRB and Radio Apparatus to verify capability to transmit and receive

The intent of these regulations quoting the two terms in 1) and 2) above is to ascertain and verify that the apparatus is capable of performing these functions. This shall be done by performance of a technical verification test by a SAMSMA Radio Surveyor.

The test will consist of connecting test instruments to the items, whether direct or off-air, to decode and interpret the digital modulation, radio frequency readings, power output readings, as well as verifying the receiver readings of the applicable safety item (radio apparatus and EPIRB). These measurements must be compared to international performance specifications **published and adhered to by the manufacturers**. Performance Discrepancies are to be rectified before any apparatus can be accepted as "capable".

Registration of the EPIRB and proof of submission to Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) must be provided to SAMSMA in terms of the EPIRB Registration Regulations, 2002. Acknowledgement of receipt by MRCC must be provided by the owner or skipper.

The tests as quoted above will as a matter of course, be applicable to item 19 (see annex). The SSB Radio is a radio frequency transceiver unit that must be capable of operating in a similar but not exact means, to item 18 (VHF Radio) on the various frequency bands of Medium Frequency and High Frequency bands.

A Satellite Phone may be accepted at the discretion of SAMSMA, as an alternative means of communication to the SSB provided that it is programmed with the MRCC Cape Town telephone number on the speed dial.

Additionally, MRCC contact numbers for the intended route must be programmed. The speed dial programming must be listed in clear view. A fully charged spare battery must be available at all times.

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Merchant Shipping (National Small Vessel Safety) Regulations 2007

Safety item No.	Description of safety appliances and equipment	Category of vessel					Additional remarks
		A	B	C	D	E&R	
18	Marine VHF or 29 MHz radio	X	X	X	X	—	As appropriate to the area of operation: Provided that a VHF radio must be carried on passenger vessels regardless of the area of operation. A VHF radio must, as a minimum, be capable of operating on channel 16 and on one other working channel. A 29 MHz radio must be capable of operating on local marine channels A, B and C. Appropriate alternative arrangements must be made for category R passenger vessels.
19	MF/HF SSB radio	X	—	—	—	—	Except sailing pleasure vessels.
20	Approved emergency position-indicating radio beacon (EPIRB)* capable of transmitting distress alerts through the COSPAS-SARSAT satellite service operating in the 406 MHz band	X	—	—	—	—	EPIRB to be— (a) installed in an easily accessible position; (b) ready to be manually released and capable of being carried by one person into a survival craft; (c) capable of floating free if the vessel sinks; (d) capable of being activated manually; and (e) automatically activated when afloat.