

Circular 170 / 2018

To: Owners, Technical Managers

Subject: Annual performance test of voyage data recorder (VDR) and simplified voyage data recorder (S-VDR), automatic identification system (AIS) and Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) on board commercial vessels under Cook Islands Flag Administration

Date: 19th April 2018

Summary**Overview:**

This circular aims to take to the attention of CI flagged vessel the IMO MSC.1/Circ.1576 issued on 16 June 2017, for CI flagged vessels.

The IMO Circular is recalling the unified interpretation when applying SOLAS regulations V/18.8, V/18.9 and IV/15.9.

Applicability:

The subject Circular issued by Cook Islands Flag Administration shall apply, other than on commercial vessels falling under SOLAS Chapters IV and V, also to all commercial vessels equipped with VDR, S-VDR, AIS and EPIRB equipment (i.e. Non-conventional vessels, commercial yachts, etc.).

Required Action:

1) *Ref. SOLAS V/18.8 - Annual performance test of voyage data recorder (VDR) and simplified voyage data recorder (S-VDR)*

Annual performance test of VDR (or S-VDR) shall be carried out within the "time window" of the annual / periodical / renewal survey under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC), but not later than the date of completion of the survey for endorsement / renewal of the relevant Certificate.

2) *Ref. SOLAS regulation V/18.9 – Annual performance test of automatic identification system (AIS)*

The annual performance test of the AIS shall be carried out within the "time window" of the annual / periodical / renewal survey under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC) or Vessel Safety cycle (for Non-Conventional vessels), but not later than the date of completion of the survey for endorsement / renewal of the relevant Certificate

3) *Ref. SOLAS regulation IV/15.9 – Annual test of EPIRB*



The annual test of the EPIRBs shall be carried out within the "time window" of the prescribed survey (Cargo Ship Safety Radio survey, for SOLAS vessels or Radio Equipment survey, referred to Non-conventional vessels), but not later than the date of completion of the survey for endorsement / renewal of the relevant Certificate.

For further enquiries, please contact Maritime Cook Islands
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MSC.1/Circ.1576
16 June 2017

**UNIFIED INTERPRETATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF SOLAS RELATING TO THE
ANNUAL TESTING OF THE VDR, S-VDR, AIS AND EPIRB**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-eighth session (7 to 16 June 2017), approved the unified interpretation of SOLAS regulations V/18.8, V/18.9 and IV/15.9 relating to the annual testing of VDR, S-VDR, AIS and EPIRB, prepared by the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue at its fourth session (6 to 10 March 2017), as set out in the annex.

2 Member States are invited to use the annexed unified interpretation as guidance when applying SOLAS regulations V/18.8, V/18.9 and IV/15.9, and to bring the unified interpretation to the attention of all parties concerned.

ANNEX

UNIFIED INTERPRETATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF SOLAS RELATING TO THE ANNUAL TESTING OF THE VDR, S-VDR, AIS AND EPIRB

SOLAS regulation V/18.8 – Annual performance test of voyage data recorder (VDR) and simplified voyage data recorder (S-VDR)

Interpretation

The annual performance test of VDR (or S-VDR) shall be carried out within the "time window" of the annual / periodical / renewal survey under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC), but not later than the date of completion of the survey for endorsement / renewal of the relevant Certificate.

SOLAS regulation V/18.9 – Annual performance test of automatic identification system (AIS)

Interpretation

The annual performance test of the AIS shall be carried out within the "time window" of the annual / periodical / renewal survey under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC), but not later than the date of completion of the survey for endorsement / renewal of the relevant Certificate.

SOLAS regulation IV/15.9 – Annual test of EPIRB

Interpretation

The annual test of the EPIRBs shall be carried out within the "time window" of the prescribed survey, but not later than the date of completion of the survey for endorsement / renewal of the relevant Certificate.
