



# SING-LLOYD

390 Victoria Street  
#02-38, The Golden Landmark  
Singapore 188061

Circular No. 06-2023

Rev. 0

## Maritime Circular No. 06-2023

To:

**Ship Owners / Managers / Operators, All SING-LLOYD Departments and Surveyors**

Subject:

**Amendments to SOLAS Chapter IV (Radiocommunications)**

References:

**Annex 1**

**IMO resolution MSC.496(105)**

1. The IMO vide Resolution MSC. 496 (105) adopted amendments to SOLAS Chapter IV on Radio Communications, which will come into force from 1 January 2024. The amendments aims to allow the use of modern communication systems in the GMDSS.

2. Following are the highlights regarding the amendments to SOLAS Chapter IV:

- References to Inmarsat have been replaced throughout with the term Recognized Mobile Satellite Service (RMSS). In addition to maritime mobile satellite services provided by INMARSAT, the IMO has recognized the maritime mobile satellite services provided by the IRIDIUM SATELLITE LLC.

Note: Iridium Satellite System is acceptable as part of GMDSS, subject to concerned Flag state recognizing Iridium Satellite System as a mobile satellite service for use in the GMDSS.

- The definition of "Sea Area A3" has changed. Sea Area A3 now means 'an area, excluding sea areas A1 and A2, within the coverage of a recognised mobile satellite service (RMSS) supported by the ship earth station (SES) carried on board, in which continuous alerting is available'. For a ship certified to operate in sea area A3, the Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate is to indicate the recognized mobile satellite service in brackets (INMARSAT / IRIDIUM).
- Transmitting and receiving distress and safety communications using direct-printing telegraphy (NBDP) do not form part of the GMDSS requirement and hence need not be fitted on board (redundant).
- The requirement of SART/AIS-SART and two two-way VHF radiotelephone apparatus is now forming part of SOLAS Ch-IV Reg. 7.2 and 7.3 (previously same was under SOLAS Ch-III, Life Saving Appliances and arrangements).

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- For sea area A1, VHF-EPIRB can no longer be accepted in lieu of satellite EPIRB.
- The coverage of sea area A3 became variable by the type of RMSS SES installed on board. An RMSS-SES with lesser coverage area installed on board will determine the coverage of sea area A3 as the “Primary system” for a ship.
- The relevant SOLAS related certificates and Records of Equipment are included as part of the amendments.

3. Owners/ operators and Masters of ships are advised to be guided by above and ensure compliance to the requirements. For radio equipment carriage requirements for various sea areas, refer attached Annex -1.

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**ANNEX -1**

Equipment	A1	A2	A3	A4
VHF telephony installation with DSC capable of:	x	x	x	x
DSC watch on channel 70	x	x	x	x
Radiotelephony watch on channel 16	x	x	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	x	x
MF telephony <sup>6</sup> installation with MF DSC capable of:		x	x	
DSC watch on 2 187.5 kHz		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	
SES providing RMSS			x	
MF/HF telephony <sup>6</sup> installation with DSC capable of:				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 4 207.5 kHz, 6 312 kHz, 12 577 kHz or 16 804.5 kHz				x
Watch on other appropriate frequency or frequencies for urgency and safety communications for the area in which the ship is navigating				x
Duplicated VHF with DSC	x <sup>7</sup>	x <sup>7</sup>	x	x
Duplicated MF <sup>6</sup> with DSC		x <sup>7</sup>		
Duplicated SES providing RMSS			x <sup>4, 5</sup>	
Duplicated MF/HF telephony <sup>6</sup> with DSC			x <sup>4</sup>	x
Receiver(s) for MSI and SAR-related information <sup>3</sup>	x	x	x	x
Float-free EPIRB	x	x	x	x
Radar SART or AIS SART	x <sup>1</sup>	x <sup>1</sup>	x <sup>1</sup>	x <sup>1</sup>
Portable GMDSS VHF transceivers	x <sup>2</sup>	x <sup>2</sup>	x <sup>2</sup>	x <sup>2</sup>
Automatic updating of position to all relevant radiocommunication equipment	x	x	x	x
<b>The following additional requirements apply to passenger ships</b>				
"Distress panel" and "distress alarm panel" (SOLAS regulations IV/6.4 and 6.6)	x	x	x	x
Two-way-on-scene radiocommunication on 121.5 MHz and 123.1 MHz from the navigating bridge. (SOLAS regulation IV/7.6)	x	x	x	x

- 1 Cargo ships between 300 and 500 gt.: 1 set. Cargo ships of 500 gt. and upwards and passenger ships: 2 sets.
- 2 Cargo ships between 300 and 500 gt.: 2 sets. Cargo ships of 500 gt. and upwards and passenger ships: 3 sets.
- 3 This may be either a combined ship earth station and EGC receiver or separate pieces of equipment.
- 4 Ships in sea area A3 may choose between duplication with either complete MF/HF transceiver or SES providing an RMSS with coverage equal to or broader than the primary RMSS (See section 1.6.3).
- 5 See section 1.6.3.2.
- 6 An MF/HF radio installation may substitute an MF radio installation.
- 7 See section 1.6.3.1.

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