

## DMA RO Circular no. 22

### Guidance on flag State information on the validity of radiocommunications equipment installed and used on ships

---

#### 1. Reference

- MSC.1/Circ.1460 on 24 June 2013, as amended – Inserted in Annex.
- MSC 97/W.P.1/Add.1, Draft report of MSC 97, paragraph 21.20 – 21.
- A.803(19), paragraph 1.
- ITU Radio Regulations (RR) – Edition 2012, appendices 17 and 18.

#### 2. Explanatory note

The Danish Maritime Authority hereby informs about the flag State decision on IMO circular MSC.1/Circ.1460 on Guidance on the validity of radiocommunications equipment installed and used on ships.

The IMO, at the Maritime Safety Committee's ninety-second session (12 to 21 June 2013), approved MSC.1/Circ.1460 considering that incompatibility may exist between radiocommunication equipment installed on ships, and the revised frequencies and channelling arrangements for the maritime HF and VHF bands as contained in appendices 17 and 18 to the ITU Radio Regulations (RR) – Edition 2012, and for this reason approved guidance on the validity of radiocommunications equipment installed and used on ships. See the circular for specific details in Annex of this letter.

#### 3. Postponement of implementation – paragraph 6 of MSC.1/Circ.1460

At the Maritime Safety Committee's ninety-seventh session (21 to 25 November 2016), the Committee decided to amend paragraph 6 of the circular by postponing the said date of implementation to 1 January 2024. A revised circular is expected to be issued by the IMO subsequently. The Danish Maritime Authority would like to clarify that, at present, no further action is needed as regards paragraph 6 of the circular.

#### 4. Flag State decision – paragraph 7 of MSC.1/Circ.1460

The guidance in paragraph 7 of the circular states: »Radiocommunication equipment, other than HF radiocommunication equipment capable of operating NBDP, does not necessarily need to be updated by the first radio survey after 1 January 2017, but may be updated appropriately in accordance with the decisions of the Administration.«

The changes to the frequencies in the ITU Radio Regulations, appendices 17 and 18, edition 2012, do not affect GMDSS frequencies regarding distress, urgency and safety. The amendments of the VHF frequencies table in Appendix 18 could, however, over time result in

limited possibilities of performing operational communications and receiving communications from some maritime services.

The Danish Maritime Authority does not require replacement of radio equipment installed and used on ships. It is, however, the responsibility of the vessel's company to consider the area of trade of the vessel and, on the basis of such an assessment, to consider whether an update or replacement of the on-board radio equipment is necessary in regard to appendices 17 and 18 to the ITU Radio Regulations (RR) – Edition 2012.

This information is valid until further notice.

**Annex:**

MSC.1/Circ.1460 on 24 June 2013 as amended in paragraph 6 by MSC 97 on 25 November 2016:

**GUIDANCE ON THE VALIDITY OF RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS  
EQUIPMENT INSTALLED AND USED ON SHIPS**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-second session (12 to 21 June 2013), taking into account the recommendation of the Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue at its seventeenth session (21 to 25 January 2013), having recognized concerns that incompatibility may exist between radiocommunication equipment installed on ships, and the revised frequencies and channelling arrangements for the maritime HF and VHF bands as contained in appendices 17 and 18 to the Radio Regulations (RR) – Edition 2012, approved this *Guidance on the validity of radiocommunications equipment installed and used on ships*.

2 The World Radiocommunication Conference 2012 made extensive changes to appendices 17 and 18 of the RR. Whilst these changes do not affect the GMDSS, they do affect the use of other frequencies that would be used by services such as Port Operations and VTS.

3 The RR provisions apply as from the dates of application indicated in article 59 and resolution 98 of the RR. Timely action is required by ships to ensure that radiocommunication equipment complies with the RR. Replacement of operating hardware may be necessary to meet the changed requirements.

4 According to the *Performance standards for shipborne VHF radio installations capable of communication and digital selective calling* (resolution A.803(19)), the equipment should comply with the Radio Regulations.

5 Attention is drawn to MSC.1/Circ.1389, which contains *Guidance on procedures for updating shipborne navigation and communication equipment*, and that updates to application software and firmware to meet changes in IMO and ITU regulatory requirements were needed.

6 To ensure GMDSS communication capability, HF radiocommunication equipment capable of operating narrow-band direct printing (NBDP) should be updated so that following the first radio survey after 1 January ~~2017~~ **2024** it meets the channelling arrangements reflected in sections II and III of part B in appendix 17 of the RR.

7 Radiocommunication equipment, other than HF radiocommunication equipment capable of operating NBDP, does not necessarily need to be updated by the first radio survey after 1 January 2017, but may be updated appropriately in accordance with the decisions of the Administration.

8 Member Governments are invited to bring this information to the attention of the appropriate national authorities and all other parties concerned.

---