



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT,
COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS



DEPARTMENT
OF MERCHANT SHIPPING
LEMESOS

Circular No.: 03/2017

18 January 2017

TEN 5.13.09
TEN 16.8.05

To all Registered owners, Registered bareboat charterers
Managers and Representatives of ships flying the Cyprus Flag

Recognized and Authorized Classification Societies

Subject: Updating shipborne navigation and communication equipment
(IMO MSC.1/Circ.1460/Rev.1 dated 25 of November 2016)

1. I refer to the above matter and wish to remind you of the provisions of the IMO MSC1/Circular 1460/Rev.1 on the validity of radiocommunications equipment installed and used on ships (copy of said IMO Circular is herewith attached).
2. HF radio communication equipment capable of operating Narrow-Band Direct Printing (NBDP) otherwise "telex over radio" should be updated in order to meet the channeling arrangements as per section II and III of part B in appendix 17 of the Radio Regulations (RR) by the first radio survey after 1st of January 2024.
3. Other radiocommunication equipment, which is not part of the GMDSS, shall be updated by the first radio survey after 1st of January 2024.
4. This Circular supersedes the Circular No. 24/2016 issued on 26 August 2016.

Ioannis Efstratiou
Acting Director
Department of Merchant Shipping

Cc - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works

- Attorney General of the Republic
- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Diplomatic Missions and Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic
- Maritime Offices of the Department of Merchant Shipping abroad
- Cyprus Shipping Chamber
- Cyprus Union of Shipowners
- Cyprus Shipping Association
- Cyprus Bar Association

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MSC.1/Circ.1460/Rev.1
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 the *Guidance on the validity of radiocommunications equipment installed and used on ships* (MSC.1/Circ.1460).

2 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-seventh session (21 to 25 November 2016), while noting that a revision of this circular was anticipated in parallel with the upcoming revision of SOLAS chapter IV, agreed to amend the date from 1 January 2017 to 1 January 2024 (paragraph 7 below), with the intention of avoiding any unnecessary updates of HF radiocommunication equipment that is already capable of operating narrow band direct printing (NBDP).

3 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.

4 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.

5 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.

6 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.

7 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 2024, it meets the channelling arrangements reflected in sections II and III of part B in appendix 17 of the RR.

8 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.

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