

[DRAFT] EUROPEAN COMMON PROPOSAL

Proposal submitted by the following administrations

[.....]

Agenda Item 1.14 - to review the operational procedures and requirements of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) and other related provisions of the Radio Regulations, taking into account Resolutions 331 (Rev.WRC-03) and 342 (Rev.WRC-2000) and the continued transition to the GMDSS, the experience since its introduction and the needs of all classes of ships.

Introduction

There is strong momentum to suppress Appendix 13 containing the old distress and safety system of the maritime mobile service. Some elements of Appendix 13 need to be retained in other parts of the Radio Regulations. This ECP contains the consequent changes of Articles 30 and 31.

Proposals

MOD

ARTICLE 30

MOD

30.1 § 1 This Chapter contains the provisions for the operational use of the global maritime distress and safety system (GMDSS), whose functional requirements, system elements and equipment carriage requirements are set forth in the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended. This Chapter also contains provisions for initiating distress, urgency and safety communications by means of radiotelephony on the frequency 156.8 MHz (VHF channel 16).

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30.3 § 3 No provision of these Regulations prevents the use by stations on board aircrafts, ships engaged in search and rescue operations, land stations, coast stations or coast earth stations, in exceptional circumstances, of any means at their disposal to assist a mobile station or a mobile earth station in distress (see also Nos. 4.9 and 4.16).

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30.4 § 4 The provisions specified in this Chapter are obligatory in the maritime mobile service and the maritime mobile-satellite service for all stations using the frequencies and techniques prescribed for the functions set out herein (see also No. 30.5).

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30.11bis Aircraft, when conducting search and rescue operations are also permitted to operate DSC equipment on the VHF DSC frequency 156.525 MHz, and AIS equipment on the AIS frequencies 161.975 MHz and 162.025 MHz.

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ARTICLE 31

MOD

CPG07(2007)055 Annex VI 19

31.1 § 1 The frequencies to be used for the transmission of distress and safety information under the GMDSS are contained in Appendix 15. In addition to the frequencies listed in Appendix 15, ship stations and coast stations should use other appropriate frequencies for the transmission of safety messages and general radiocommunications to and from shore-based radio systems or networks.

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31.2 § 2 Any emission causing harmful interference to distress and safety communications on any of the discrete frequencies identified in Appendix 15 is prohibited.

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31.17 § 8 1) Ship stations, where so equipped, shall, while at sea, maintain an automatic digital selective calling watch on the appropriate distress and safety calling frequencies in the frequency bands in which they are operating. Ship stations, where so equipped, shall also maintain watch on the appropriate frequencies for the automatic reception of transmissions of meteorological and navigational warnings and other urgent information to ships.

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31.18 2) Ship stations complying with the provisions of this Chapter should, where practicable, maintain a watch on the frequency 156,800 MHz (VHF channel 16).

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