

Republic of the Marshall Islands

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

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MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY No. 02-25 (Rev. 1)

To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Nautical Inspectors, Recognized Organizations

Subject: INSTALLATION, USE, AND UPDATING OF RADIO EQUIPMENT

Date: 7 February 2025

This Marine Safety Advisory (MSA) supersedes MSA No. 11-23 and has been revised to include recently published International Maritime Organization (IMO) Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1460/Rev.5](#).

The IMO has published Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1676](#), *Delays Affecting the Availability of New GMDSS Equipment Compliance with the Revised Performance Standards in IMO Resolutions [MSC.511\(105\)](#), [MSC.512\(105\)](#), and [MSC.513\(105\)](#)*.

Accordingly, until **1 January 2028**, the Republic of the Marshall Islands Maritime Administrator (the “Administrator”) will permit the continued installation of:

1. shipborne VHF radio installations conforming to performance standards not inferior to those specified in IMO Resolution [A.803\(19\)](#), as amended by [MSC.68\(68\)](#);
2. shipborne MF and MF/HF radio installations conforming to performance standards not inferior to those specified in IMO Resolutions [A.804\(19\)](#), as amended by [MSC.68\(68\)](#); and [A.806\(19\)](#), as amended by [MSC.68\(68\)](#); and
3. Inmarsat-C ship earth stations conforming to performance standards not inferior to those specified in IMO Resolution [A.807\(19\)](#), as amended by [MSC.68\(68\)](#).

The IMO has also advised all vessels to ensure VHF radiocommunication equipment compliance with the latest channel arrangements in Appendix 18 of the ITU Radio Regulations (RR) by the first radio survey on or after **1 January 2028**. See IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1460/Rev.5](#).

On 13 December 2024, IMO issued Circular [COMSAR.1/Circ.32/Rev.3](#), *Harmonization of GMDSS Requirements for Radio Installations On Board SOLAS Ships*. The revised Circular clarifies that a single MF/HF radio installation may be accepted both as a primary MF radio installation and a duplicated MF/HF radio installation for ships operating in sea area A3. Shipowners and operators are advised to refer to the table and footnotes in §2.3 for all ships to which SOLAS Chapter IV applies.

For questions about updating radiocommunications equipment, the Administrator may be contacted at: radio@register-iri.com.

This MSA is evaluated annually by the Administrator and expires one year after its issuance or renewal unless otherwise noted, superseded, or revoked.