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GUIDELINES FOR GENERAL RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS

- 1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventy-fifth session (15 to 24 May 2002), approved Guidelines for general radiocommunications, prepared by the Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR) at its sixth session (18 to 22 February 2002).
- 2 The annexed Guidelines are intended to provide guidance to Governments on criteria for general radiocommunications to meet GMDSS requirements in areas where no such services exist.
- 3 Member Governments are invited to bring these Guidelines to the attention of all parties concerned for information and action, as appropriate.

ANNEX

GUIDELINES FOR GENERAL RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS

1 Terminology

1.1 *General radiocommunications* means operational and public correspondence traffic, other than distress, urgency and safety messages, conducted by radio (SOLAS Chapter IV, regulation 2.1.5).

However, operational and public correspondence traffic could include other radiocommunications related to the safe navigation of the ship such as ship movement, medical advice, weather reports, etc.

1.2 *Public correspondence* means any telecommunication which the offices and stations must, by reason of their being at the disposal of the public, accept for transmission (ITU Radio Regulations, provision No. 1.116).

1.3 *Alternative communication system* means a communication system available to individuals or to ships in areas where no maritime VHF/MF public correspondence services are available.

2 Criteria

2.1 The ship must be fully equipped to perform all GMDSS functions in all waters where it is sailing.

2.2 The alternative communication system or systems used for general radiocommunications in A1/A2 sea areas where no maritime VHF/MF public correspondence services are available, should:

- .1 cover the area concerned (have a well defined coverage area such as map of coverage or estimated mileage from a coast station);
- .2 offer connection to the landbased public switched network;
- .3 be capable of handling traffic from ship-to-shore and from shore-to-ship;
- .4 be capable of transmitting voice or written messages (direct printing (email), fax or data communications);
- .5 be in operation 24 hours a day; and
- .6 operate in accordance with the ITU Radio Regulations.

2.3 The appropriate personnel of the ship should be:

- .1 knowledgeable in the use of the alternative communication system or systems used onboard the ship for general radiocommunications in sea areas A1/A2 where no maritime VHF/MF public correspondence services are available; and
- .2 fully aware of areas covered by such alternative system or systems.