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**GOVERNMENT NOTICE**  
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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT**  
**DEPARTEMENT VAN VERVOER**

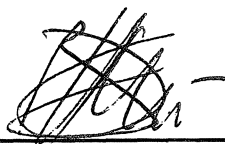
No. R. 457

2 July 2013

**MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1951 (ACT NO. 57 OF 1951)**

**MERCHANT SHIPPING (RADIO INSTALLATIONS) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS,**  
**2013**

I, Dikobe Ben Martins, Minister of Transport, have in terms of section 356 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1951 (Act No. 57 of 1951), made the regulations in the Schedule.



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**Mr. D. B. MARTINS, MP**

**MINISTER OF TRANSPORT**

**DATE: 15-06-2013**

**SCHEDULE**

**Definition**

1. In these regulations, "the Regulations" means the Merchant Shipping (Radio Installations) Regulations, 2002, published under Government Notice No. R. 506 of 26 April 2002.

**Amendment of arrangement of the Regulations**

2. The arrangement of regulations of the Regulations is amended—

(a) by the substitution for the heading to Part 2 of the following heading:

**“SOLAS REQUIREMENTS”**; and

(b) by the substitution for the heading to Part 3 of the following heading:

**“NON-SOLAS REQUIREMENTS”**.

**Amendment of regulation 2 of the Regulations**

3. Regulation 2 of the Regulations is amended—

(a) by the substitution in sub regulation (1) for the definition of “COSPAS-SARSAT satellite service” of the following definition:

**“‘COSPAS-SARSAT satellite service’** means a satellite aided search and rescue system designed to locate distress beacons transmitting in the 406 MHz band;”;

(b) by the substitution in sub regulation (1) for the definition of “enhanced group calling (EGC)” of the following definition:

**“‘enhanced group calling (EGC)’** means a system providing a simple and automated means of receiving marine safety information via satellite on board ships;”;

- (c) by the substitution in sub regulation (1) for the definition of **“GMDSS” general operator's certificate** and “GMDSS restricted operator's certificate” of the following definition:

“ ‘GMDSS radio operator certificates’ includes

- (a) GMDSS First-class Radio Electronic Certificate
- (b) GMDSS Second-class Radio Electronic Certificate,
- (c) GMDSS General Operator's Certificate

which are respectively issued in accordance with the STCW Convention as amended and ITU Radio Regulations;”.

- (d) by the insertion of **“gross tonnage”** after the definition of **“GMDSS” general operator's certificate**”

**“ gross tonnage”** means the measure of the overall size of a ship determined in accordance with the provisions of the present convention (International Convention on Tonnage measurement of ships)” ;

- (e) by the substitution in sub regulation (1) for the definition of "international NAVTEX service " of the following definition:

**“‘international NAVTEX service’** means the coordinated broadcast and automatic reception on 518 kHz, 490kHz or 4209 kHz of maritime safety information by means of narrow-band direct-printing telegraphy;”;

- (f) by insertion in sub regulation (1) of the definition “Radio operator certificates” after the definition of “Radiotelephone operator”:

“Radio operator certificates” includes

- (a) Long Range Certificate
- (b) Short Range Certificates

which are respectively issued in accordance with the ITU Radio Regulations;”.

(g) by the deletion of the definition of “silence period”.

(h) by the insertion in sub regulation (1) of the definition “SART” after the definition “radiotelephone installation”

“SART” means a Search and Rescue Transponder capable of operating in the 9 GHz radar frequency band”

### **Amendment of regulation 3 of the Regulations**

### **Substitution of heading to Part 2 of the Regulations**

4. The following heading is substituted for the heading to Part 2 of the Regulations:

**“SOLAS REQUIREMENTS”.**

### **Amendment of regulation 18 of the Regulations**

5. Regulation 18 of the Regulations is amended—

(a) by the substitution for sub regulation (1) of the following sub regulation:

“(1) Subject to section 73(4) of the Act, every ship to which this Part applies must carry the number of radio operators required by regulation 16 of the Merchant Shipping (Safe Manning) Regulations, 1999, as amended, each of whom must be a person who is qualified for distress and safety radio communications purposes, as specified in sub regulation (2).”;

(b) by the substitution for paragraph (a) of sub regulation (2) of the following paragraph:

“(a) in the case of an area A1 ship, he or she holds a GMDSS general operator's certificate, issued in accordance with Article 47 of the ITU Radio Regulations;” and

(c) by the substitution for paragraph (b) of sub regulation (2) of the following paragraph:

“(b) in the case of an area A2, area A3 or area A4 ship, he or she holds a GMDSS general operator's certificate issued in accordance with Article 47 of the ITU Radio Regulations.”.

### **Substitution of heading to Part 3 of the Regulations**

6. The following heading is substituted for the heading to Part 3 of the Regulations:

**“NON-SOLAS REQUIREMENTS”.**

### **Amendment of regulation 22 of the Regulations**

7. Regulation 22 of the Regulations is amended—

(a) by the substitution for sub regulation (1) of the following sub regulation:

“(1) Every ship to which this Part applies must be provided with VHF radio installation capable of transmitting and receiving-

- (i) DSC on the frequency 156.525 MHz (channel 70), whereby it must be possible to initiate the transmission of distress alerts on channel 70 from the position from which the ship is normally navigated; and
  - (ii) radiotelephony on the frequencies 156.300 MHz (channel 6), 156.650 MHz (channel 13) and 156.800 MHz (channel 16)
  - (iii) A radio installation capable of maintaining a DSC watch on VHF channel 70.”.
- (b) by the substitution for sub regulation (2) of the following sub regulation
- “(2) Every ship to which this Part applies, being—
- (a) a passenger ship;
  - (b) a cargo ship of 100 gross tonnage or more;
  - (c) a cargo ship of less than 100 gross tonnage making a voyage more than 40 nautical miles from shore;
  - (d) a class B or C fishing vessel; or
  - (e) a pleasure vessel of 100 gross tonnage or more,

"must be provided with-

- (i) An MF/HF radio installation capable of transmitting and receiving, for distress and safety purposes, on all distress and safety frequencies in the bands 1605 kHz and 4000 kHz and between 4000 kHz and 27500 KHz using –
  - (aa) DSC;
  - (bb) radiotelephony
- (ii) equipment capable of maintaining a DSC watch on the frequencies 2187.5 kHz, 8414.5 kHz and at least one of the distress and safety DSC frequencies 4207.5 kHz, 6312 kHz, 12577 kHz or 16804.5 kHz.
- (iii) a receiver capable of receiving international NAVTEX services broadcast;
- (iv) a satellite EPIRB of the kind referred to in regulation 10(1)(f)".

- (c) by the substitution for sub regulation (3) of the following sub regulation:

“(3) If radio equipment required by this Part is capable of automatically providing the ship's position when transmitting a distress alert, the ship's position and the time the ship was at that position must be made available for transmission by the radio equipment—

- (a) from a navigation receiver, if one is fitted; or
- (b) manually, at intervals not exceeding four hours, while the ship is at sea.”.

### **Substitution of regulation 29 of the Regulations**

8. The following regulation is substituted for regulation 29 of the Regulations:

#### **“Use of VHF DSC radiotelephone installations**

**29.** Every radio operator using the VHF DSC radiotelephone installation must have practical knowledge of operating the VHF DSC equipment and general knowledge of the ITU Radio Regulations applying to VHF DSC radiotelephone communications and specifically that part of those Regulations relating to distress, urgency and safety procedures.”.

#### **Amendment of regulation 30 of Regulations**

- (a) by the substitution for sub regulation (1) of the following sub regulation:

“30. (1) Every ship to which this Part applies, while at sea, must maintain a continuous watch on the navigation bridge on VHF DSC channel 70 and on the frequency 156.8MHz (VHF channel 16)”.

**Amendment of regulation 31 of the Regulations**

9. Regulation 31 of the Regulations is amended—
- (a) by the substitution for sub regulation (3) of the following sub regulation:
- “(3) A reliable clock must be securely mounted in such a position that the entire dial can easily be observed from the radiotelephone operating position.”; and
- (b) by deletion of sub regulation (7).

**Amendment of regulation 32 of the Regulations**

10. Regulation 32 of the Regulations is amended by the deletion of sub regulation (2).

**Substitution of regulation 35 of the Regulations**

11. The following regulation is substituted for regulation 35 of the Regulations:

**“Radio watch (Radiotelephone ship)**

35. (1) Every ship to which this Part applies, while at sea, must maintain a DSC watch—
- (a) on VHF DSC channel 70; or
- (b) on the distress and safety DSC frequencies 2187.5 kHz or 8414.5 kHz and on at least one of the distress and safety DSC frequencies 4207.5 kHz, 6312 kHz, 12577 kHz or 16804.5 kHz.



(2) Every ship to which this Part applies, while at sea, must maintain a radio watch for broadcasts of maritime safety information on the appropriate frequency or frequencies on which such information is broadcast for the area in which the ship is being navigated.

(3) Every ship to which this Part applies, while at sea, must maintain, when practicable, a continuous watch on VHF channel 16, and this watch must be kept at the position from which the ship is normally navigated.”.

### **Substitution of regulation 36 of the Regulations**

12. The following regulation is substituted for regulation 36 of the Regulations:

#### **“Radiotelephone operators**

36. Subject to section 73(4) of the Act, every ship to which this Part applies must carry the number of appropriately qualified radiotelephone operators as specified in regulation 16 of the Merchant Shipping (Safe Manning) Regulations, 1999, as amended.”.

### **Amendment of regulation 38 of the Regulations**

13. Regulation 38 of the Regulations is amended by the addition of subparagraph (3)(c) of the following subparagraph:

“(c) a pleasure vessel of 100 gross tonnage or more.”.

### **Amendment of regulation 39 of the Regulations**

14. Regulation 39 of the Regulations is amended by the addition of the following sub regulation:

“(4) A vessel that is equipped with free-fall lifeboats should have a Search and Rescue Radar Transponder permanently and securely mounted therein.”

### **Substitution of Annex 1 to the Regulations**

15. The following Annex is substituted for Annex 1 to the Regulations:

#### **“Annex 1**

(Regulation 10(1)(f))

#### **SATELLITE EPIRBs**

Every satellite EPIRB required by these regulations must be—

- (a) capable of transmitting a disaster alert through the COSPAS-SARSAT satellite service operating in the 406 MHz band;
- (b) installed in an easily accessible position;
- (c) ready to be manually released and capable of being carried by one person into a survival craft;
- (d) capable of floating free if the ship sinks;
- (e) capable of being activated manually; and
- (f) automatically activated when afloat.”.

### **Amendment of Annex 2 to the Regulations**

16. Annex 2 to the Regulations is amended by the substitution for subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a) of item 3 of the following subparagraph:

- “(i) its capability to operate properly as per the manufacturer’s specification, the expiry date of the battery, checking of the built-in magnet and particularly its ability to float free (where required) in the event of the ship sinking;”.

### **Substitution of Annex 4 to the Regulations**

17. The following Annex is substituted for Annex 4 to the Regulations:

#### **“Annex 4**

(Regulation 25(4))

### **TOOLS, TESTING EQUIPMENT AND SPARE PARTS**

#### *Tools*

- 1 smooth file of 15 cm length
- 1 jointing knife
- 1 pair 18 cm insulated wireman’s pliers with side cutters
- 1 set of screwdrivers (flat-head and/or phillips) suitable for use on the radiotelephone equipment
- 1 adjustable spanner with 25 mm gap
- 1 hacksaw and spare blades to suit
- 1 lockable tool box or compartment (for containing the above-mentioned tools)

#### *Measuring instruments*

- 1 hydrometer, not required if vessels are fitted with non-maintenance batteries

#### *Spare parts and miscellaneous items*

- 5 fuses for each type and rating of fuse in use
- 1 spare bulb for the emergency light required by regulation 31(4)
- 250 g petroleum jelly or general purpose grease

Where special nuts or screws are used for fastening, suitable tools must be provided in addition to those specified above.”.

### **Substitution of Annex 5 to the Regulations**

18. The following Annex is substituted for Annex 5 to the Regulations:

#### **“Annex 5**

(Regulation 25(7))

### **NON-SOLAS EQUIPMENT TESTS AND BATTERY AND RESERVE ENERGY CHECKS**

1. *Daily*

- (a) Batteries providing a source of energy for any part of the radio installation must be tested daily and, where necessary, brought up to the fully charged condition.
- (b) Each printer must be checked at least once each day to ensure its serviceability.

2. *Weekly*

- (a) Survival craft fixed radio equipment, if provided, must be tested at least once every week using suitable artificial antennas.
- (b) Batteries forming part of survival craft fixed radio equipment, if provided, and the two-way radiotelephone apparatus for survival craft must be

tested weekly and, where necessary, brought up to a fully charged condition. Where non-rechargeable batteries are provided as a source of energy, the expiry date of the batteries must be checked and the batteries replaced if necessary

- (c) Each item of survival craft two-way VHF radio equipment must be tested at least once a week on a frequency other than 156.8 MHz (VHF channel 16), unless the equipment is of a sealed type where such testing is not practical.

### 3. *Monthly*

- (a) Each EPIRB must be examined at least once a month to check—
  - (i) its capability to operate properly as per manufacturer instructions and by checking the battery expiry date and the fitted magnet and in particular, its ability to float free in the event of the ship sinking;
  - (ii) how secure it is in its mounting; and
  - (iii) for signs of damage.
- (b) Each radar transponder must be examined at least once a month to check how secure it is in its mounting, for signs of damage and the battery expiry date.
- (c) A check must be made at least once a month on the condition of all batteries providing a source of energy for any part of a radio installation and on how secure they are in their mountings. The battery connections and compartment must also be checked.

- (d) Survival craft fixed radio equipment must be tested at least once a month using an antenna provided with the equipment.
- (e) The proper functioning of the DSC facilities must be tested without radiation of signals by use of the means provided on the equipment.

4. *Annually*

Survival craft radar transponders must be inspected tested and, if necessary, have their source of energy replaced at least once every twelve months. The Authority may extend this interval to a maximum of 17 months to permit the inspection to take place concurrently with a radio survey.

5. *Recording of results*

Results of the tests and checks required by this Annex must be entered in the radio log.”

**Short title and commencement**

19. These regulations are called the Merchant Shipping (Radio Installations) Amendment Regulations, 2013, and come into operation on the date of publication thereof.