



TECHNICAL CIRCULARS

TC No: 009/2022
19 September 2022

TO SHIP OWNER/SHIP MANAGER/INTERESTED PARTIES

Revised Performance Standard for EPIRBs and VDRs

Ship owners and ship managers should ensure that Voyage Data Recorders (S-VDRs/VDRs) and Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) due to be installed on or after 01 July 2022* are approved to the latest performance standards. The testing and maintenance of EPIRBs should also be done according to the latest guidelines, particularly for GNSS/AIS compatible EPIRBs.

EPIRBs

Float-Free EPIRBs are major part of the GMDSS equipment on sea-going vessels.

The IMO has issued Resolution **MSC.471(101)**, which contains a revised performance standard for EPIRBs to further improve their ability to help alert and locate distress situations.

The main updates in the new performance standard are mandatory requirements for the beacon to include a global navigation satellite system (GNSS) receiver (e.g. GPS, GLONASS) and an Automatic Identification System (AIS) transmitter, so that the beacon's emergency signal includes a position fix and AIS locating signal.

EPIRBs installed on or after 01 July 2022* are required to be type approved to the new performance standard.

As a result of the new performance standard, the IMO has revised the following guidance documents relating to testing and maintenance of EPIRBs to include requirements for the new GNSS/AIS enabled EPIRBs:

- 1) **MSC.1/Circ.1039/Rev.1** - Guidelines for Shore-Based Maintenance of EPIRBs
- 2) **MSC.1/Circ.1040/Rev.2** - Guidelines for Annual Testing of EPIRBs

VDRs

VDRs are the equivalent of an airplane's 'black box' equipment carried on sea-going vessels.

The update to the EPIRB performance standard has made an effect on the IMO's VDR and S-VDR performance standards, as the VDR's float-free data capsule is required to meet the requirements of the latest EPIRB performance standard.

VDRs installed on or after 01 July 2022*, are to be approved to IMO Resolution **MSC.333(90)**, as amended by **MSC.494(104)**. Similarly, S-VDRs installed on or after 01 July 2022*, are to be approved to IMO Resolution **MSC.163(78)**, as amended by Resolution **MSC.214(81)** and **MSC.493(104)**.

*For application of resolution **MSC.471(101)**, the phrase "installed on or after 01 July 2022" has been interpreted by IACS as follows:

- a) for ships for which the building contract is placed on or after 01 July 2022, or in the absence of the contract, constructed on or after 01 July 2022, "installed on or after 01 July 2022" means any installation on the ship; and
- b) for ships other than those ships prescribed in (1) above, "installed on or after 01 July 2022" means a contractual delivery date for the equipment or, in the absence of a contractual delivery date, the actual delivery of the equipment to the ship on or after 01 July 2022.

For information, you may contact
SCM Office : 603-55138170, Fax : 603-55138086, Email : infohq@myscm.com.my

Captain M. Prathaban	+6012 2997278	mprathaban@myscm.com.my
Mohd Marby	+6012 6071147	marby@myscm.com.my
Mohd Nor Sahat	+6012 2349521	mdnor@myscm.com.my
Sosanto Yusup	+6013 3841229	sosanto@myscm.com.my