



Marine Notice No. 11 of 2011

NOTICE TO ALL SHIPOWNERS, FISHING VESSEL OWNERS, AGENTS, SHIPMASTERS, PASSENGER SHIP MASTERS, SKIPPERS, FISHERMEN, YACHTSMEN, SEAFARERS, SHIP CHANDLERS, MARINE ELECTRONIC SUPPLIERS, DISTRIBUTORS AND MAINTAINERS.

GUIDANCE ON PROCEDURES FOR UPDATING SHIPBORNE NAVIGATION AND COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

The Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has produced a circular, MSC.1/Circ.1389, to provide guidance on procedures for updating shipborne navigation and communication equipment. The Irish maritime administration wishes to bring attention to this circular, reproduced in the attached Annex.

This circular provides guidance for member governments of the IMO and manufacturers of radio communications and electronic navigational equipment, to ensure that software updates are applied to this equipment and that the equipment is updated with the latest software version to meet the requirements of the IMO and ITU regulations.

These software updates are of particular importance for equipment used for the safety of navigation and for communication equipment, which operates as part of the GMDSS (Global Maritime Distress and Safety System) and the SAR (Search and Rescue) System.

Queries in relation to this Marine Notice can be addressed to:

The Maritime Radio Affairs Unit,
Marine Survey Office,
Department of Transport,
Leeson Lane,
Dublin 2.
Tel: 01-6783453, Fax: 01-6783477
Email: radiusurveyors@transport.ie

Director General
Maritime Safety Directorate
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Leeson Lane
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16/02/2011
(Enclosed annex)

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice, please contact:
The Marine Survey Office, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, tel: +353-(0)1-678 3400.
For general enquiries, please contact the Maritime Safety Policy Division, tel: +353-(0)1-678 3418.
Written enquiries concerning Marine Notices should be addressed to:
Maritime Safety Directorate, Department of Transport, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, Ireland,
email: marinenotices@transport.ie or visit us at: www.transport.ie.

ANNEX
IMO Maritime Safety Committee circular (MSC.1/Circ 1389)
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AND COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

Background

1. As navigation and radio communication equipment becomes increasingly software and firmware dependent, updates to application software and firmware to meet changes in IMO and ITU regulatory requirements are needed. This applies in the case of retrospective changes to regulations which apply to all relevant ships.
2. Means should be provided to replace software and firmware or install updates to software and firmware in systems aboard ships.
3. Manufacturers should provide customers and interested parties with timely access to relevant information.
4. Adequate navigation and radio communication equipment software and firmware maintenance arrangements should be implemented by shipowners and be supported by equipment manufacturers. Equipment should provide the means to display, on demand, the current applicable software and firmware versions.

Procedures

5. Member Governments should promulgate information to all affected parties in relation to IMO and ITU regulatory changes that have the potential to affect maritime navigation and radio communication equipment.
6. Equipment manufacturers should provide timely access to information pertaining to maritime navigation and radio communication equipment application software, for any relevant changes, originating from IMO and ITU regulations. This could, for example, be by website listing relevant regulations currently in effect for the equipment, equipment software and firmware versions, compliance status and regulatory type approvals for the listed configurations/versions. Update of operating systems and hardware may also be necessary to meet the changed requirements.
7. Shipowners should ensure that the vessel's equipment is up to date with the latest requirements.
8. In addition to the above, in the case of ECDIS refer to SN.1/Circ.266/Rev.1 as may be amended.