

Commonwealth of Dominica**Office of the Maritime Administrator**

TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF MERCHANT SHIPS, AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS

SUBJECT: (GMDSS) RADIO LOG BOOK

PURPOSE: Provides guidelines and examples of a completed (GMDSS) Radio Log Book as stated on the Marine Safety Circular CD-MSC 31-01

APPLICABILITY: All ships 300 GT and more & all non-GMDSS ships required to have radio equipment as per national regulations.

REQUIREMENTS:

A record shall be kept, to the satisfaction of the Administration and as required by the Radio Regulations, of all incidents connected with the radio communication service which appear to be of importance to safety of life at sea. (*SOLAS Reg. IV/17 & ITU RR App. 11*)

Therefore, the maintenance of radio records, in compliance with the requirements of the Radio Regulations, SOLAS Convention as well as required by the Commonwealth of Dominica International Maritime Act 2000, Chapter 1, Part II, Sections 20 and 21, is the responsibility of the radio operator designated as having primary responsibility for radio-communications during distress incidents. The following shall be recorded, together with the times at which they occur (*examples of entries are provided on the Annex of this circular*):

DAILY ENTRIES (STCW A & B-VIII)

- (1) The proper functioning of the DSC equipment shall be tested at least once each day but without radiating any signal.
- (2) Inmar-C with EGC function Test: Self-test shall be tested by means provided.
- (3) Batteries shall be tested ON-LOAD and OFF-LOAD daily, and where necessary, brought to fully charged condition.

WEEKLY ENTRIES (STCW A & B-VIII)

- (1) DSC distress and safety radio equipment shall be tested at least once each week by means of a test call when within communication range or coast station.
- (2) Batteries shall be tested once per week by means of hydrometer where practicable, or where a hydrometer cannot be used (sealed batteries) by suitable load test.

Reference: Testing Equipment Used for Distress and Safety Calls.(IMO)

Testing on the exclusive DSC distress and safety calling frequencies should be avoided as far as possible by using other methods. There should be no test transmissions on the DSC calling channel on VHF ch.70. However, when testing on the exclusive DSC distress and safety calling frequencies on MF and HF is unavoidable, it should be indicated that these are test transmission (RR No.3068 (Mob-87)). The test call should be composed in accordance with Recommendation ITU-R M.493 and the call should be acknowledge by the coast station. Normally there would be no further communication between the two station involved.

MONTHLY ENTRIES (STCW A & B-VIII)

- (1) Each search and rescue radar transponder shall be checked at least once a month using the in built test facility and checked for security and sign damage.(SOLAS Reg.III/19)
- (2) Each survival craft two-way VHF equipment shall be tested at least once a month on a frequency other than VHF ch.16.(SOLAS Reg.III/19)
- (3) Inmar-C with EGC shall be tested by means of actual communication.
- (4) Batteries shall be checked once per month for the security of each battery and its connection and the condition of the batteries and their compartment or compartments.

LOGGING NAVTEX MESSAGES

The reception of weather forecasts or navigational warnings on NAVTEX need not be noted in the (GMDSS). RADIO LOG BOOK The NAVTEX receiver print-out may replace the log entries required by chapter IV of the 1974 SOLAS Convention. (IMO Res. A.617 (15))

FORMAT

(GMDSS) RADIO LOG BOOKS on board of Commonwealth of Dominica vessels, need not be endorsed by the Administration, therefore those found on board may be of the generic type.

MAINTAINED IN DUPLICATE

The logs needs to be maintained in duplicate and for this reason it is produced in carbonized paper.

Annex 1 Follows – Sample GMDSS Radio Log Book with Entries

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Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular should be directed to the Deputy Maritime Administrator
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