



MSN 024

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Inmarsat Fleet 77

The objectives and aims of this MSN are to provide information to Owners, Managers and Operators of Isle of Man registered ships, of the conditions which must be satisfied to permit Inmarsat Fleet 77 to be accepted as an equivalent arrangement to direct- printing telegraphy.

Documents referred to in this notice: International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (as amended) (SOLAS), MSC 75/24 para 11.13 to 11.14, IMO Resolution A.888 (21)

Most regulations and notices are available on the Isle of Man Government web site: www.iomshipregistry.com or by contacting marine.survey@gov.im

Introduction

The background for including MF/HF direct-printing telegraphy in the GMDSS was to avoid confusion of languages or radiotelephony by requiring the possibility of using written communications. The requirements for written communications can also be fulfilled with other equipment e.g. an Inmarsat-C ship earth station.

MF/HF direct-printing telegraphy equipment is very rarely used for transmitting and receiving distress and safety radio communications nowadays. After a possible activation of the DSC distress alert on MF/HF the ship will most likely switch to radiotelephony for the performance of distress and safety radio communications.

The MF/HF direct-printing telegraphy is also not used for general radio communication purposes; as most A3-ships are provided with an Inmarsat-C ship earth station, which is more familiar to the radio operator and easier to operate. Most coast stations have terminated their MF/HF direct-printing telegraphy service.

Inmarsat Fleet 77 as an Equivalent to Direct- printing Telegraphy

The seventy-fifth session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 75/24, Para 11.13 to 11.14) approved a new ship earth station, called Inmarsat Fleet 77 for use in the GMDSS. (Fleet 77 meets the requirements of IMO Resolution A.888 (21)).

The Isle of Man Ship Registry accepts an Inmarsat Fleet 77 terminal as an equivalent to the direct-printing telegraphy part of an MF/HF radio installation in sea areas A1, A2 and A3. This is conditional upon the MF/HF radio installation using EGC, that the radiotelephony is fully operational and that such ships are also provided with an Inmarsat-C ship earth station.

Requirements for Accepting Inmarsat Fleet 77 as an Equivalent Arrangement

The Fleet 77 terminal shall be installed in accordance with the IMO guidelines on harmonisation of GMDSS requirements for radio installations on board SOLAS ships (COMSAR/Circ.32), in particular with respect to the reserve source of energy and antenna.

For Isle of Man ships using the MF radio installation option with two Inmarsat-C ship earth stations, in order to remove one of the Inmarsat-C stations and fit an Inmarsat Fleet 77 terminal, the MF DSC unit will need to be re-programmed to allow operation and watchkeeping on the MF **and** HF DSC frequencies. The ship may then be equipped with an MF/HF installation without telex over radio but with Inmarsat Fleet 77 instead and one Inmarsat-C station for duplication and to cover the EGC requirement.

Isle of Man Ship Registry
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Please note - The Isle of Man Ship Registry cannot give legal advice. Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel. You should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.