



**MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE**  
**SHIPPING CIRCULAR**  
**NO. 29 OF 2016**

MPA Shipping Division  
460 Alexandra Road  
21<sup>st</sup> Storey PSA Building  
Singapore 119963  
Fax: 6375 6231  
<http://www.mpa.gov.sg>

12 December 2016

**Applicable to:** Shipowners, shipmanagers, operators, surveyors, agents and masters of Singapore-registered ships

**IMPLEMENTATION OF AMENDMENTS TO RADIO REGULATIONS  
CONCERNING THE REVISED MARITIME FREQUENCIES AND CHANNELLING  
ARRANGEMENTS**

This circular informs on the MSC.1/Circ.1460/Rev.1 "*Revised Guidance on the validity of radiocommunications equipment installed and used on ships*" as approved at the 97<sup>th</sup> session of the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization.

2. To ensure GMDSS communication capability, the 92<sup>nd</sup> Maritime Safety Committee has earlier issued MSC.1/Circ.1460 to advise that High Frequency (HF) radiocommunication equipment capable of operating narrow-band direct printing (NBDP) should be updated by the first radio survey after 1 January 2017; and other radiocommunication equipment may be updated appropriately in accordance with the decisions of the Administration.

3. In order to avoid any unnecessary updates of HF radiocommunication equipment that is already capable of operating NBDP, further noting that the International Maritime Organization has approved the draft outcome of the detailed review of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) including the conclusion that NBDP can be removed as a carriage requirement for distress follow-up communications in Sea Areas A3 and A4 in the future, the Maritime Safety Committee at its 97th session agreed to amend the date in paragraph 6 of MSC.1/Circ.1460 to advise that HF radiocommunication equipment capable of operating NBDP should be updated by the first radio survey after 1 January 2024.

4. In line with MSC.1/Circ.1460/Rev.1, Singapore ships equipped with HF NBDP radiocommunication equipment need not be updated until the first radio survey after 1 January 2024.

5. For VHF equipment, in view that GMDSS's important channels are not amended and that there are many other existing VHF channels that can still be used for communication between the new and existing VHF equipment. The VHF radio communication equipment is deemed suitable for continued use onboard, unless otherwise required by the ship's port of call operating the upgraded VHF channels or until such time when replaced or repaired which involve its replacement, shall then comply with the new channelling requirements.

6. Shipping Circular No.23 of 2016 is hereby superseded.

7. Queries relating to this circular should be directed to Mr. Calvin Lee at telephone 6375-6269 or email [calvin\\_lee@mpa.gov.sg](mailto:calvin_lee@mpa.gov.sg).

TAN SUAN JOW  
DIRECTOR OF MARINE  
MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE