

*To accompany Australian Notice to Mariners 325/2002*

## **Marine Notice 11/2002**

### **MAJOR CHANGES TO MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS IN AUSTRALIA TO TAKE EFFECT FROM 1 JULY 2002**

On 1 July 2002 there will be a significant change to Australia's maritime communications network to bring the country in line with international requirements.

#### **From 1 July the Commonwealth will provide:**

- HF Digital Selective Calling (DSC) monitoring and follow-on communications
- All Inmarsat satellite services currently provided.

#### **Services to Cease from 1 July 2002:**

- Monitoring of HF voice distress frequencies
- Broadcast of navigation warnings on HF voice
- Shore based monitoring of the 2187.5 KHz MF DSC distress alerting frequency.

#### **Background to the change**

As of 1 February 1999, the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) determined that all passenger ships on international voyages and ships over 300 gross tonnes were required to comply with the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS). The GMDSS communications network was established so that rescue authorities and vessels at sea could be rapidly alerted to vessels in distress.

Under the GMDSS monitoring of voice distress frequencies and the broadcast of navigation warnings on HF radio was no longer required.

The new communications arrangements will cover Sea Area A3.

#### **The new network**

The new Network Control Station will be called 'RCC Australia' Radio Callsign 'VIC'. Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) 005030001.

These services can be summarised as follows:

- Ship to shore distress alerting and shore to ship distress relay via HF DSC.
- Continuous automatic monitoring of the GMDSS DSC distress and safety channels of 4207.5, 6312, 8414.5, 12577 and 16804.5 kHz.

- Capability to transmit and receive on any frequency between 2 – 27 MHz using the following modes:
  - Radiotelephony;
  - GMDSS Narrow Band Direct Printing; and
  - GMDSS DSC, including the automatic response to DSC test calls.
- A limited capability to connect HF radiotelephone services to the Public Switched Telephone Network for services such as medical advice to ship masters.
- All Inmarsat services.

### **Maritime Safety Information (MSI)**

Coastal and high seas MSI will be broadcast via SafetyNET using the Inmarsat C satellite system.

From 1 July 2002, the Bureau of Meteorology will be transmitting radio fax services and weather forecasts and warnings by voice for Australian ocean and coastal areas from the new HF Radio Network.

### **Recreational Boats, Fishing Vessels and other vessels under 300 gross tonnes**

Any vessel which fits the appropriate GMDSS compatible equipment can use the AMSA HF DSC network or Inmarsat services.

### **You can help with Coverage Testing**

From 1 May through to mid-June the new HF DSC network will be conducting tests. If your vessel is available to take part in the tests please advise the Network Control Centre on: (02) 6279 5773.

### **Further Information**

Further Information is available by visiting the AMSA web site

<http://www.amsa.gov.au/aussar/sos.htm>

and the Bureau of Meteorology's web site

<http://www.bom.gov.au/marine> for callsign, transmission frequency and schedule information for the Bureau's new HF weather broadcasts.

Queries on any aspect of the GMDSS may be addressed to:

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