



Iridium GMDSS Recognised Mobile Satellite Service

Notice to all Shipowners, Masters and Surveyors

This MIN expires 31 December 2020

Summary

This Marine Information Note (MIN) is intended to give awareness and advise UK flag vessels of a new recognised Mobile Satellite Service in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS).

1. Iridium GMDSS Satellite Services

- 1.1 The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has recognised Iridium as meeting the necessary technical criteria of a GMDSS Satellite Service. Iridium has a public Service Agreement (PSA) with the International Mobile Satellite Organisation (IMSO) for GMDSS Satellite Services.
- 1.2 Use of Iridium GMDSS Satellite Services needs an appropriate Iridium GMDSS Satellite Services terminal.
- 1.3 The service is forecast to launch before the end of 2020.

2. Iridium distress alerting

- 2.1 At launch of the service, Iridium GMDSS distress alerts will automatically be routed to a Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) located in the United States of America which has global geographic responsibility. All distress alerts will then be relayed via established communication methods to the appropriate RCC closest to the geographical location of the distress. The service will operate as part of the Global SAR Plan as published by the IMO.
- 2.2 Iridium plans to expand their connectivity to more RCCs and some of these may be available at launch. As RCCs become available in this service, a user may instead pre-select one of these using a 'manual mode'.



3. Iridium GMDSS Maritime Safety Information (MSI) via Enhanced Group Calling (EGC)

3.1 NAVAREA and METAREA Co-ordinators are working with Iridium to establish the service for onboard reception of Maritime Safety Information via an EGC service: Iridium SafetyCast. Mariners are to remain mindful that services may reach full operating capability at different times for NAVAREA and METAREAS globally. Mariners should not rely upon Iridium's SafetyCast services for safety purposes until declared fully operational.

3.2 In NAVAREA and METAREA 1 the service is currently in the trial stages. Mariners are encouraged to check for updates to this MIN as well as notifications from the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) and Met Office regarding operational status.

4. Summary

4.1 Use of Iridium GMDSS Satellite Services needs an appropriate onboard Iridium GMDSS Satellite Services terminal.

4.2 Updates to the launch and availability of Iridium GMDSS satellite services for GMDSS Distress Alerting and Maritime Safety Information will be published by the responsible bodies.

4.3 Mariners should not rely upon Iridium's SafetyCast services for safety purposes until declared fully operational.

More Information

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