



MIN 636 (M+F) Amendment 1

Iridium GMDSS Recognised Mobile Satellite Service

Notice to all Shipowners, Masters and Surveyors

This MIN expires 31 July 2021

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 has been launched but the Maritime Safety Information (MSI) Services may only be relied upon for safety purposes when declared fully operational by the information provider, that is the NAVAREA or METAREA coordinator. This information will be published by IMO in GISIS or in the interim in a circular where the area service will be declared 'operational'.
- 1.4 Where the Iridium MSI service is not fully operational, an Iridium GMDSS terminal is not an equivalent for regulatory compliance to an Inmarsat GMDSS terminal capable of receiving MSI via SafetyNet.

2. Iridium distress alerting

- 2.1 Iridium GMDSS distress alerts are automatically routed to a Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) located in the United States of America which has global geographic responsibility. Alternatively, a user may pre-select an RCC of their choice if available. 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; as an RCC becomes available in this service, a user may instead pre-select one of these using a 'manual mode'. The United Kingdom's RCC is available to pre-select and is capable of receiving and relaying Iridium distress alerts.

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 different NAVAREA and METAREAS. Mariners should not rely upon Iridium's SafetyCast services for safety purposes until declared fully operational by the appropriate NAVAREA or METAREA coordinator or published as 'operational' by IMO.

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

4. Summary

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

4.2 Updates to the 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 or regulatory compliance in an area until declared fully operational by the information provider or published as 'operational' by IMO, either in GISIS or in a circular.



More Information

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