



Navigation: Safety of Navigation: Voyage Data Recorders (VDRs): Inappropriate or Counterfeit Batteries

Notice to all shipowners, fleet managers, masters and surveyors.

This Marine Information Note expires on 31 December 2015

Summary

This Marine Information Note advises industry on:
the proliferation of counterfeit and inappropriate batteries used as a reserve power source for VDR equipment.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This notice concerns vessels complying with the performance standards for Shipborne Voyage Data Recorders (VDRs) or Simplified VDRs (S-VDRs) defined in IMO Resolutions MSC.333(90), MSC.163(78) and A.861(20).
- 1.2 The MCA has become aware of inappropriate or counterfeit batteries being fitted to VDR equipment for the purpose of providing the dedicated reserve power source. Certain aftermarket replacement battery packs have been shown to be of inferior quality. Use of such batteries may pose a safety risk and/or result in the failure of the equipment to function properly. Counterfeit products also pose a risk and both the source, description, and product markings and anti-counterfeit measures should be considered.

2. Recommendations and Actions

- 2.1 When obtaining battery replacement owners should ensure that the parts fully comply with the manufacturer's specification and if necessary consult with the manufacturer or an approved service centre.



More Information

Navigation Safety Branch
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Bay 2/02
Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
Southampton
SO15 1EG

Tel : +44 (0) 23 8032 9175
Fax : +44 (0) 23 8032 9204
e-mail: navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk

General Inquiries: infoline@mcga.gov.uk

MCA Website Address: www.dft.gov.uk/mca

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