



PROVISION OF GMDSS RADIO INSTALLATIONS WITH  
POSITION UPDATING FACILITY

1 The Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications, at its thirty-ninth session (29 November to 3 December 1993), agreed on the importance of including the ship's position in any distress alert and for ships to be able to receive shore-to-ship distress alerts directed to specifically defined geographical areas. To this effect, the Sub-Committee recommended that Members provide, where possible, GMDSS radio installations with the facility to automatically update the ship's position from a suitable electronic position-fixing aid.

2 To expedite the above recommendation, manufacturers and standardization entities are requested to ensure that all relevant shipborne radio equipment forming part of the GMDSS and electronic navigational aids are fitted with a suitable interfacing facility for the exchange of data which, to ensure technical compatibility between all equipment, should conform to an appropriate international standard\*.

3 However, recognizing that it may not be practicable to provide existing equipment with the facility to update the ship's position automatically, the Sub-Committee urged Members to recommend all ships to endeavour to enter the ship's position into relevant equipment forming part of a GMDSS radio installation at intervals not exceeding 4 hours whenever underway.

4 Furthermore, to assist ships' crews, manufacturers are urged to incorporate an alarm into all GMDSS radio equipment, if used to generate distress alerts containing the ship's position, to be activated when no revised position data are entered within a pre-determined period.

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\* Reference is made to IEC 1162.