

30 May 2008

**Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Safety Advisory Committee  
(CFIVSAC) Recommendations:**

- For all distress alerting communications equipment, it is mandatory that emergency (battery) power be employed to provide operations following generator failures.
- All new VMS fittings should include GMDSS distress alerting functionality (or equal), full two way data communications, and MSI capabilities (or similar services).
- All new EPIRBs fitted should include an integral GPS receiver to permit automatic inclusion of position in the distress alert
- GMDSS rules require additional radio equipment in lifeboats or life rafts including a Search and Rescue Transponder (SART) or a recently approved alternative, the Automatic Identification System (AIS) SART, and VHF portable radios for on scene communications. The Task Force believes that larger fishing vessels should carry at least minimal survival craft electronics.
- All CFVs should have at least one waterproof VHF-FM handheld radio fitted plus one extra battery, but not required to be loaded into life rafts.
- For vessels required to fit MF/HF SSB equipment, there must be a capability to receive weather appropriate to the area of operation. This could include weather fax receivers and/or Navtex receivers.
- All CFVs fitted with a fixed mount VHF-DSC should have the transceiver properly registered with MMSI issuing authorities and GPS position input.
- All CFVs operation beyond 100 NM should fit a MF/HF SSB transceiver with DSC capabilities, licensed by the FCC, and connected to a GPS receiver for position input.
- These equipment changes should be required at either equipment replacement or no later than 10 years from the date of the Regulations.
- Size of the vessel should be considered in determining equipment requirements.