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.

* Reference is made to IEC 1162.