

SECOND RECOGNISED MOBILE SATELLITE SERVICE PROVIDER (IRIDIUM) IMPLEMENTATION TIME-FRAMES AND TYPE-APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS

ALL SAMSA PERSONNEL, SHIP AGENTS, PORT AUTHORITIES, SHIP OWNERS, SHIP MANAGERS, SEAFARERS AND OTHER INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

ISSUE DATE	16 April 2021	EXPIRY DATE	16 April 2024 or unless withdrawn	REFERENCE	SM6/5/2/1/MIN
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Marine Information Notice's and /or Marine Notice's affected

<i>Cancelled or superseded:</i>	None	<i>Read in conjunction with:</i>	Not Applicable
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SUMMARY

The purpose of this Marine Notice is to inform the maritime industry of the latest developments around Iridium's implementation as a second recognized mobile satellite service provider (Inmarsat was the first) and with particular emphasis on its integration into the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS).

1. International Maritime Organization (IMO) Maritime Safety Committee (MSC)

In May 2018, the MSC agreed that Iridium Satellite LLC had satisfied the established criteria to receive recognition as a mobile satellite communication service provider in the GMDSS and adopted a Statement of Recognition of the Maritime Mobile Satellite Services provided by Iridium Satellite LLC, which recognizes the services provided by the Iridium Safety Voice, Short-Burst Data and enhanced group calling services, for use in the GMDSS.

2. International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO)

On December 19, 2019 a [Letter of Compliance](#) was signed by the IMSO, stating it had positively verified the operational and technical requirements as requested by the MSC of the IMO for Iridium to provide GMDSS service.

The issuance of the letter formally authorized Iridium to now provide satellite GMDSS service, bringing global coverage and a choice of both network and equipment to this emergency service for the first time.

3. IMO Safety of Life at Sea Convention (SOLAS) amendments

With effect from 1 January 2020 and in light of the above, amendments were made to chapter IV of the SOLAS convention and certain codes, to provide for a "recognized mobile satellite service" to be installed for maritime distress and safety communications on SOLAS vessels. Previously, the regulations specified an Inmarsat device. South Africa will amend its national legislation to reflect these amendments.

4. Radio communications equipment type-approval for use on South African vessels

All Iridium mobile satellite communications equipment needs to be type-approved by the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA). GMDSS equipment fitted on SOLAS vessels also need to meet the necessary IMO performance standard requirements. (IMO Resolution MSC.434 (98) - Performance standards for a ship earth station for use in the GMDSS). These performance standards are specified in SAMSA Marine Notice 9 of 2017.

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