# Guidance Note No: 91/2002 Revision No: 11

# Marine safety communications – survey requirements

The Northern Territory Marine Act requires that certain classes of commercial vessels carry prescribed safety communications equipment, which is required to be surveyed annually by an approved radio surveyor.

1. **Commercial Vessels Class 1B, 1C, 1D, 2B, 2C, 3B and 3C**

Must be fitted with the following safety communications equipment;

**An EPIRB**

* Classes 1B, 2B and 3B vessels must carry a 406 EPIRB to AS/NZS 4280 requirements
* Classes 1C, 2C and 3C must carry a 406 EPIRB to AS/NZS 4280 requirements

EPIRB batteries must be valid for the period of survey.

**And**

**A VHF Radio**

with the following frequencies:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 156.8 | MHz CH 16 | 156.3 | MHz CH06 |
| 156.375 | MHz CH 67 | 156.65 | MHz CH13 |

**And**

Vessels operating beyond VHF range of Coast Radio Darwin, as determined by a gazetted Radio Surveyor, must carry communications equipment which provides;

* 1. 24 Hour distress calling
  2. Access to Marine Safety Information (MSI) for the area of operation.

This can be achieved by the carriage of at least one:

1. HF – DSC radio to meet relevant AMSA Marine Orders; or
2. Inmarsat C unit to meet relevant AMSA Marine Orders; or
3. HF radio which has at **minimum** the following frequencies:-

**Distress & calling**

4125 KHz

6215 KHz

8291 KHz

**Marine Safety Information (MSI)**

8176 KHz

**Weather – Issued by Bureau of Meteorology**

| **VMW** |  | **VMC** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| All of the NT | or | East of Cape Don Only |
| 6230 KHz |  | 6507 KHz |
| 8113 KHz |  | 8176 KHz |
| 12362 KHz |  | 12365 KHz |
| 16528 KHz |  | 16546 KHz |

1. **Commercial Vessels Class 1A, 2A, 3A**

These vessels must comply with the relevant Marine Orders issued by AMSA.

1. **Batteries**

Sealed low maintenance batteries may be fitted in place of lead acid batteries provided:

* 1. A voltmeter is fitted within view of the radio operating position; and
  2. The sealed battery has a charge indicator incorporated; and
  3. With the radio consuming maximum power and battery charger disconnected, the voltmeter must **not** indicate a drop of more than 10%.

1. **Marine communications information**

Current information may be accessed on the following websites:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Marine Safety Branch, Department of Lands and Planning | http://www.nt.gov.au/dlp/ |
| Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) | http://www.acma.gov.au/ |
| Australian Maritime Safety Authority | http://www.amsa.gov.au/ |
| The Bureau of Meteorology | http://www.bom.gov.au/marine |
| Marine Radio Operators Handbook | www.amcom.amc.edu.au/handbook |

1. **Approved radio surveyors**

To arrange a radio survey you must contact any one of the following approved radio surveyors. Financial arrangements are between the vessel owner/agent and the company. On satisfactory completion of the survey, the approved radio surveyor will send a clearance direct to the Marine Safety Branch.

**Darwin**

| **Name** | **Radio surveyor** | **Phone** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| David Kirwan | Australian Marine Electronics | 0418 900 170 |
| Clive Bartsch | BAE Systems Australia Ltd | 8935 7272 |
| Colin Bremner | BAE Systems Australia Ltd | 8935 7272 |
| Troy Barnes | BAE Systems Australia Ltd | 8935 7272 |
| Aposoly Devriadis | Electrotech Australia Pty Ltd | 8942 2669 |
| Byron Calvert | Electrotech Australia Pty Ltd | 8942 2669 |
| Rajel Cushar | Electrotech Australia Pty Ltd | 8942 8669 |
| Aaron Tierney | Electrotech Australia Pty Ltd | 8942 8669 |
| Bob Stroud | Navcom Electronics Pty Ltd | 8981 1311 |
| Robert Puetz | Pearl Marine Engineering | 0417 849 870 |
| Wayne Bateman | Wheelhouse Marine | 0428 382 047 |

**Queensland**

| **Name** | **Radio surveyor** | **Phone** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Ronald James | James Marine Electronics Pty Ltd - Portsmith | (07) 4035 2427 |
| Paul Weldon | Seabourne Electronic Pty Ltd - Townsville | (07) 4771 4210 |
| Robert John Oliver | TMQ Electronics - Murarrie | (07) 3890 7788 |
| Brian Swinton | Brian Swinton Marine Electronics - Cairns | 0418 355 311 |
| Allan Baldey | Electronic & Instrumentation Engineers P/L Millaa Millaa | (07) 4097 2755 |

Signed by: Sri Srinivas – Principal Marine Surveyor  
Date Issued: 22 July 2013

| **For further information contact Marine Safety Branch:** |
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| 2nd Floor, Energy House, 18-20 Cavenagh, Darwin NT 0800, GPO Box 2520, Darwin NT 0801 |
| Telephone: 08 8924 7100, Facsimile: 08 8924 7009 |
| Email: marinesafety@nt.gov.au |

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