

## IMO Resolutions and Approvals for Iridium GMDSS Equipment

All cargo vessels over 300 GT and all passenger vessels engaged on international voyages, are required to have GMDSS equipment onboard. These requirements are defined in SOLAS – THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974, Chapter IV and its Appendix Certificates Form P, R & C.

In 2018, the IMO's Maritime Safety Committee adopted RESOLUTION MSC.436(99) (adopted on 24 May 2018) AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974

This resolution redefines satellite services and ship earth stations in SOLAS Chapter IV as well as Form P, R & C.

Satellite services are changed from

*"Inmarsat geostationary satellite service"* to *"recognized mobile satellite service"*.

Ship earth stations are changed from

*"Inmarsat ship earth station"* to *"A recognized mobile satellite service ship earth station"*.

These amendments entered into force on 01 January 2020.

Also, in 2018, the Maritime Safety Committee adopted RESOLUTION MSC.451(99) (adopted on 24 May 2018) STATEMENT OF RECOGNITION OF MARITIME MOBILE SATELLITE SERVICES PROVIDED BY IRIDIUM SATELLITE LLC.

In this resolution, Iridium was recognized by IMO as meeting the requirements of the IMO for mobile satellite service in the GMDSS. This resolution had immediate effect.

Links to the resolutions:

[https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/MSCResolutions/MSC.436\(99\).pdf](https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/MSCResolutions/MSC.436(99).pdf)

[https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/MSCResolutions/MSC.451\(99\).pdf](https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/MSCResolutions/MSC.451(99).pdf)

According to the above two resolutions, Iridium is now a fully approved alternative to Inmarsat C.

Furthermore, a new performance standard for GMDSS Ship Earth Stations (SES) was adopted in 2017: RESOLUTION MSC.434(98) (adopted on 16 June 2017) PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR A SHIP EARTH STATION FOR USE IN THE GMDSS.

In this resolution, new performance standards are defined for GMDSS SES equipment. This resolution is supported by the IEC test standard for SES, IEC 61097-16, which was published in July 2019. In the EU, both standards, and the amended SOLAS carriage requirement, have been incorporated into the list of standards for compliance with the Marine Equipment Directive (MED Wheelmark).

Link to the resolution:

[https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/MSCResolutions/MSC.434\(98\).pdf](https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/MSCResolutions/MSC.434(98).pdf)

LT-3100S GMDSS System is designed and approved according to IEC 61097-16 and MED/5.22.

*Free link to IEC 61097-16 is not available. The IEC standard must be purchased.*