

Maritime Safety Information (MSI) via Iridium SafetyCast™

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.

SOLAS, Chapter IV, Regulation IV/12.2 states: *"Every ship, while at sea, shall maintain a radio watch for broadcasts of maritime safety information on the appropriate frequency or frequencies on which such information is broadcast for the area in which the ship is navigating"*.

In 2018, the Maritime Safety Committee – MSC – adopted RESOLUTION MSC.451(99) STATEMENT OF RECOGNITION OF MARITIME MOBILE SATELLITE SERVICES PROVIDED BY IRIDIUM SATELLITE LLC, including Iridium's enhanced group calling service (EGC). This resolution had immediate effect, and adopted the Iridium system as a global system for distributing MSI. The Iridium enhanced Group Call Service (EGC) has been renamed "Iridium SafetyCast".

In June 2019, the MSC approved MSC.1/Circ.1613 INTERIM IRIDIUM SAFETYCAST SERVICE MANUAL with a revised and updated "First Edition" expected to be agreed at the next NCSR meeting – a sub-committee of MSC – in April 2021. The Iridium SafetyCast™ Service Manual is to be equated with the existing Service Manual for Inmarsat SafetyNet.

Links to the above resolution and approval:

[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)

https://docs.iho.int/mtg_docs/com_wg/CPRNW/WWNWS_Publications_&_Documents/English/MSC_Circ1613.pdf

All MSI providers must follow the guidelines stated in RESOLUTION A.706(17), "WORLD-WIDE NAVIGATIONAL WARNING SERVICE", and RESOLUTION A.1051(27), "IMO/WMO WORLDWIDE MET-OCEAN INFORMATION AND WARNING SERVICE".

Regulation 3.1.1.2, in both resolutions, states that the broadcast of EGC must be via Inmarsat SafetyNet.

In June 2019, two new resolutions were adopted:

RESOLUTION MSC.469(101) "AMENDMENTS TO WORLD-WIDE NAVIGATIONAL WARNING SERVICE (RESOLUTION A.706(17))" and RESOLUTION MSC.470(101) "AMENDMENTS TO IMO/WMO WORLDWIDE MET-OCEAN INFORMATION AND WARNING SERVICE (RESOLUTION A.1051(27))"

The definition in 3.1.1.2, in both resolutions, is now changed to *"Enhanced Group Call: broadcasts to the geographical sea areas covered by a recognized mobile satellite service."*

According to the above resolutions and the requirements of SOLAS Chapter V, Regulation 4 & 5, all MSI providers are required to broadcast MSI on Iridium SafetyCast™ as well as Inmarsat SafetyNet.

Links to the above resolutions:

[https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/AssemblyDocuments/A.706\(17\).pdf](https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/AssemblyDocuments/A.706(17).pdf)

<https://www.international-maritime-rescue.org/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=743458e1-2af1-44df-8c15-04b1cfe5f5d8>

[https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/MSCResolutions/MSC.469\(101\).pdf](https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/MSCResolutions/MSC.469(101).pdf)

[https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/MSCResolutions/MSC.470\(101\).pdf](https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/MSCResolutions/MSC.470(101).pdf)