



IHO WWNWS 13

31 AUGUST 2021

# **REPORT OF THE IMO ENHANCED GROUP CALL (EGC) COORDINATING PANEL**

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## **IMO EGC Coordinating Panel, Terms of reference**

To coordinate the development and use of the International Enhanced Group Call (EGC) service, including:

- develop documentation in support of EGC services;
- approval and registration of potential information providers to ensure worldwide coverage is achieved and maintained; and
- ensure agreements are conducted with all recognized mobile satellite service provider(s) serving required sea areas.

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## Panel membership

The IMO Enhanced Group Call Coordinating Panel is open to membership by all Member Governments and also includes one member nominated by each of the following international organizations:

- International Maritime Organization (IMO);
- International Hydrographic Organization (IHO);
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO); and
- International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO).

Observers:

- IHO Worldwide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee;
- IMO NAVTEX Coordinating Panel;
- WMO Services Commission (SERCOM);
- Inmarsat; and
- Iridium.

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## **Certificate of authorization update**

### SafetyNet Certificates:

Number of certificates issued: 83  
Number of current certificates: 78  
Last certificate issued: November 2019

### EGC Certificates:

Number of certificates issued: 51 (8 certificates issued in 2021)  
NAVAREA certificates: 18  
METAREA certificates: 22  
SAR certificates: 11  
First certificate issued: January 2020  
Last certificate issued: April 2021

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## **Certificate of authorization update**

The IMO EGC Coordinating Panel:

- emphasize the importance of the need for MSI and SAR related information providers to conclude agreements with recognized mobile satellite service providers;
- encourage all MSI providers to progress their implementation of the Iridium SafetyCast service; and
- invite Member States to update the GMDSS Master Plan.

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## Meeting 7 July 2021

A total of 42 participants attended the last meeting of the Panel. The meeting addressed matters relating to IMO NCSR, including:

- Expiration date for existing SafetyNET certificates;
- Authorization of NAVAREA and/or METAREA Coordinators to broadcast information other than nav/met warnings;
- Technical solutions for dissemination of MSI and SAR-related information over RMSS; and
- Broadcast monitoring requirements.

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## **Expiration date for existing SafetyNET certificates**

Task:

(NCSR 8/14/1, paragraph 9.43.1)

To consider setting an expiry date for existing SafetyNET certificates, as and when a suitable alternative means of certification for broadcast of SAR-related information is established and advise NCSR 9, as appropriate.

Discussion:

- Legacy certificates, records have been lost.
- Challenges regarding SAR providers, and others than MET/NAV.
- Caution must be exercised.
- Might be beneficial to modify GISIS to include certificate status.

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## **Authorization of NAVAREA and/or METAREA Coordinators to broadcast information other than nav/met warnings**

Task:

(NCSR 8/14/1, paragraph 9.43.2)

To consider whether further authorizations should be granted to NAVAREA and/or METAREA Coordinators for the purpose of broadcasting information other than navigational warnings and meteorological warnings and forecast, and to advise NCSR 9, as appropriate.

Discussion:

- Navarea coordinators act as “back up” for both MET and SAR providers.
- Certificates authorize to broadcast Navigational Warnings only.
- Navarea coordinators are not authorized to send distress messages.
- Amend certificates to include MET and SAR?



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## **Technical solutions for dissemination of MSI and SAR-related information over RMSS**

Task:

(NCSR 8/14/1, paragraph 9.29)

To consider technical solutions for dissemination of MSI and SAR-related information over multiple recognized mobile satellite services and advise NCSR 9, as appropriate.

Discussion:

- API has been developed.
- Use of API is voluntary for MSI providers, Inmarsat and Iridium.
- Single point of dissemination is not supported due to cost and reliability.
- Use of API is a cost effective solution.

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## **Broadcast monitoring requirements**

Task:

(NCSR 8/14/1, paragraph 9.29)

To consider any necessary actions concerning broadcast monitoring requirements, taking into account comments and views expressed, as well as documents submitted at this session, and advise NCSR 9, as appropriate.

Discussion:

- Automatic self-confirmation of MSI broadcasts.
- Broadcast monitoring not mandatory.
- MSI providers should have the opportunity to make informed decision.
- Technical solutions could be covered in RMSS manuals.

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## **Next meeting of the Panel**

Date:

10 November 2021, 0900 - 1300 UTC

The meeting will be conducted as a virtual meeting using Teams.

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**The end, questions?**

*The IMO EGC Coordinating Panel encourage all MSI providers to progress their implementation of the Iridium SafetyCast service.*