

IMO Correspondence Group on Dissemination of MSI and SAR-related information

Submitted by Australia

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This paper informs WWNWS of the establishment of an IMO *Correspondence Group on Dissemination of MSI and SAR-related information* and encourages NAVAREA and National Coordinators to participate in its work.

Action to be taken: 10

INTRODUCTION

1. Cost implications were identified by International Maritime Organization (IMO) Member States, NAVAREA and METAREA Coordinators, and concerned international organizations prior¹ to, and following the recognition² of, multiple recognized mobile satellite service providers for use in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS).
2. These matters related to the dissemination of maritime safety information (MSI) and search and rescue (SAR) related information over multiple recognized mobile satellite services, including MSI broadcast monitoring.
3. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR), at its 7th session (15 to 24 January 2020), considered the matter. During the ensuing discussion, it agreed that cost-related issues should be considered by the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC).
4. MSC, at its 102nd session (4 to 11 November 2020), agreed to defer consideration of the matter to the 103rd session of MSC, due to time constraints. Based on additional proposals submitted to the 103rd session of MSC (5 to 14 May 2021), and the ensuing discussion, a proposal to establish the *Correspondence Group on Dissemination of MSI and SAR-related information* was agreed (MSC 103/WP.1/Rev.1 §14.9.4).

¹ Recognition of the second recognized mobile satellite service provider was agreed by the 99th session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee. Prior to this recognition, Member States in particular, identified a number of cost implications, which are neatly summarised in the report (document NCSR 4/29) of the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR), at its 4th session (6 to 10 March 2017).

² In accordance with the requirements of IMO resolution A.1001(25).

5. The correspondence group will consider the matter intersessionally and report to the 105th session³ of MSC. The terms of reference are re-produced in paragraph 6. Australia was appointed Coordinator of the CG⁴.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

6. MSC established the *Correspondence Group on Dissemination of MSI and SAR-related information*, under the coordination of Australia, and instructed it, taking into account decisions of, and comments and proposals made, as well as any additional information that might be submitted directly to the Correspondence Group, to:
 - a) consider the mandatory use of all recognized mobile satellite services providing services within the service area for dissemination of information by MSI and SAR information providers, and advise MSC, as appropriate;
 - b) consider options to address cost implications for MSI and SAR information providers concerning the dissemination of information over multiple GMDSS mobile satellite services; present an analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of each option; and recommend a way forward for consideration by [MSC] including an implementation plan, as appropriate; and
 - c) submit a report for consideration by MSC 105.

INVITATION

7. Membership of the correspondence group includes experts representing the recognized mobile satellite service providers, NAVAREA and METAREA Coordinators, SAR authorities, Member States and international organizations concerned, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and International Hydrographic Organization (IHO).
8. Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) has established a SharePoint site to facilitate the work of the correspondence group. NAVAREA and National Coordinators are invited to participate, by providing the information requested below to cgmsi-sar@amsa.gov.au:

Title:

First Name:

Last name:

Email address:

NAVAREA/National Coordinator:

Organisation:

³ The date of the 105th session of MSC is unknown prior to submission of the document. The Coordinator will endeavour to finalise the report of the correspondence group no later than 1 March 2022.

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9. The Coordinator will provide regular updates to participants of the correspondence group by email, including requests for information or when new material is available on the SharePoint site.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN

10. The Sub-Committee is invited to:
 - a) note the establishment of the *IMO Correspondence Group on Dissemination of MSI and SAR-related information* with the terms of reference in paragraph 6;
 - b) provide any relevant information to the Coordinator, as appropriate; and
 - c) encourage NAVAREA and National Coordinators to participate in the correspondence group, by requesting they contact the Coordinator in accordance with paragraph 8.