



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

31 March 2017

Department
MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
Number 2017-003

**PRESCRIBED RADIO COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT
ONBOARD PHILIPPINE REGISTERED VESSELS**

I. AUTHORITY:

- a. Presidential Memorandum Order No. 03 s.2016
- b. Presidential Memorandum Order No. 04 dated 26 September 2016
- c. Republic Act No. 9993 and its IRR s.2011
- d. SOLAS 74/78, as amended

II. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this circular is to prescribe the required equipment onboard all Philippine-registered vessels to ensure that each vessel as categorized herein is provided with the necessary radio communication equipment that will enhance safety of life and property at sea.

III. SCOPE:

This circular applies to all Philippine-registered vessels engaged in domestic and international trade to include fishing vessels of 3 gross tonnage and above calling at domestic ports and all watercrafts, small boats, conveyances that are using radio communications equipment.

The following ships shall not be covered:

- A. Vessels of the Philippine Coast Guard;
- B. Vessels of the Armed Forces of the Philippines;
- C. Vessels of the Philippine National Police;
- D. Vessels of Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources;
- E. Vessels of National Mapping and Resources Information Authority;
- F. Inflatable boats used for rescue made of either a single or more rubber tubing, and;
- G. Other vessels that may be exempted by the competent authority of the PCG.

IV. DEFINITION OF TERMS:

Coastwise – is the movement of cargo or domestic trading along, or around the coast. Said movements of cargo are generally carried by small vessel/ships.

Digital Selective Calling (DSC) - is a standard for sending pre-defined digital messages via the medium-frequency (MF), high-frequency (HF) and very-high-frequency (VHF) maritime radio systems. It is a core part of the Global Maritime Distress Safety System (GMDSS).

Gross Tonnage (GT) – is a measurement of total capacity expressed in volumetric tons of 100cubic feet; it is calculated by adding the underdeck tonnage and the internal volume of tween-decks and decks space used for cargo.

High Frequency (HF) – is the range of radio frequency electromagnetic waves (radio waves) between 3 and 30MHz. it is also known as decameter band or decameter waves as its wave lengths range from 1 to 10 decameter.

Philippine-Registered Vessel – a vessel or watercraft registered under Philippine laws.

Single-Side Band Modulation (SSB) – is a refinement of amplitude modulation which uses transmitter power and bandwidth more efficiently.

Very High Frequency (VHF) – is the range of radio frequency electromagnetic waves (radio waves) from 30MHz to 300MHz with corresponding wave lengths of 10 to 1 meters.

V. POLICIES:

- a. All Philippine-registered vessels shall be provided with VHF Radio, equipped with DSC to initiate the transmission and receiving of distress alerts on the frequency 156.525 MHz (channel 70) and capable monitoring on the frequency 156.800 MHz (channel 16).
- b. All Philippine-registered vessels engaged in coastwise and international voyage to initiate the transmission and receiving of distress alerts on the frequency 2182kHz, 4125kHz and 6215kHz with the following type of vessels:

Classes Of Ships	Categories of Ships	Gross Tonnage and No. of Navigation Hours	Required Radio Communication Equipment
Passenger Ships	Bay, River, Harbor and lakes	Regardless of Size and Navigation	- VHF with capability on 156.8/156.3/156.6 MHz
	Engaged on a coastwise voyage	Below 150 GT / less than 5 hours of navigation	- VHF with capability on 156.8/156.3/156.6 MHz

		150 GT and above / less than 5 hours of navigation	
		Below 150 GT and more than 5 hours of navigation	- VHF with capability on 156.8/156.3/156.6 MHz - SSB with capability on 2182/4125/6215.5 KHz
		150 GT and above / more than 5 hours of navigation	- SSB with capability on 2182/4125/6215.5 KHz - VHF with capability on 156.8/156.3/156.6 MHz - Main and reserve receiver and reserve power supply
Cargo Ship	Bay, River, Harbor and lakes	Regardless of Size and Navigation	- VHF with capability on 156.8/156.6/156.3 MHz
	Engaged on a coastwise voyage	Below 150 GT / less than 5 hours of navigation	VHF with capability on 156.8/156.6/156.3 MHz
		150 GT and above / less than 5 hours of navigation	
		Below 150 GT and more than 5 hours of navigation	- VHF with capability on 156.8/156.6/156.3 MHz - SSB with capability on 2182/4125/6215.5 KHz
		150 GT and above / more than 5 hours of navigation	- SSB with capability on 2182/4125/6215.5 KHz - VHF with capability on 156.8/156.6/156.3 MHz - Main and reserve receiver and reserve power supply
Tankers	Bay, River, Harbor and	Regardless of Size and Navigation	- VHF with capability on 156.8/156.6/156.3 MHz

	lakes		
	Engaged on a coastwise voyage	Regardless of size and less than 5 hours of navigation	- VHF with capability on 156.8/156.6/156.3 MHz - SSB with capability on 2182/4125/6215.5 KHz
		Regardless of size and more than 5 hours of navigation	- VHF with capability on 156.8/156.6/156.3 MHz - SSB with capability on 2182/4125/6215.5 KHz - Main and reserve receiver and reserve power supply
Tug and Dredges	Bay, River, Harbor and lakes	Regardless of size	-VHF with capability on 156.8/156.6/156.3 MHz
	Engaged on a coastwise voyage	Regardless of size and less than 5 hours of navigation	- VHF with capability on 156.8/156.6/156.3 MHz - SSB with capability on 2182/4125/6215.5 KHz
		Regardless of size and more than 5 hours of navigation	- VHF with capability on 156.8/156.6/156.3 MHz - SSB with capability on 2182/4125/6215.5 KHz - Main and reserve receiver and reserve power supply
Fishing Vessels	Bay, River, Harbor and lakes	Regardless of size	-VHF with capability on 156.8/156.6/156.3 MHz
	Engaged on a coastwise voyage	Below 75 GT / less than 5 hours of navigation	- VHF with capability on 156.8/156.3/156.6 MHz
		75 GT and above / less than 5 hours of navigation	
		Below 75 GT and more than 5 hours	- VHF with capability on 156.8/156.3/156.6 MHz

		of navigation	- SSB with capability on 2182/4125/6215.5 KHz
		75 GT and above / more than 5 hours of navigation	- SSB with capability on 2182/4125/6215.5 KHz - VHF with capability on 156.8/156.3/156.6 MHz - Main and reserve receiver and reserve power supply
Yachts	Bay, River, Harbor and lakes	Regardless of Size and Navigation	- VHF with capability on 156.8/156.3/156.6 MHz
	Engaged on a coastwise voyage	Below 150 GT / less than 5 hours of navigation	- VHF with capability on 156.8/156.3/156.6 MHz
		150 GT and above / less than 5 hours of navigation	
		Below 150 GT and more than 5 hours of navigation	- VHF with capability on 156.8/156.3/156.6 MHz - SSB with capability on 2182/4125/6215.5 KHz
		150 GT and above / more than 5 hours of navigation	- SSB with capability on 2182/4125/6215.5 KHz - VHF with capability on 156.8/156.3/156.6 MHz - Main and reserve receiver and reserve power supply
High Speed Crafts	Bay, River, Harbor and lakes	Regardless of Size and Navigation	- VHF with capability on 156.8/156.6/156.3 MHz
	Engaged on a coastwise voyage	Regardless of size and less than 5 hours of navigation	- VHF with capability on 156.8/156.6/156.3 MHz - SSB with capability on 2182/4125/6215.5 KHz
		Regardless of size	- VHF with capability on

		and more than 5 hours of navigation	156.8/156.6/156.3 MHz - SSB with capability on 2182/4125/6215.5 KHz - Main and reserve receiver and reserve power supply
Special Purpose Ships	Bay, River, Harbor and lakes	Regardless of Size and Navigation	- VHF with capability on 156.8/156.3/156.6 MHz
	Engaged on a coastwise voyage	Regardless of size and less than 5 hours of navigation	- VHF with capability on 156.8/156.6/156.3 MHz - SSB with capability on 2182/4125/6215.5 KHz
		Regardless of size and more than 5 hours of navigation	- VHF with capability on 156.8/156.6/156.3 MHz - SSB with capability on 2182/4125/6215.5 KHz - Main and reserve receiver and reserve power supply
Miscellaneous Ships	Bay, River, Harbor and lakes	Regardless of size	-VHF with capability on 156.8/156.6/156.3 MHz
	Engaged on a coastwise voyage	Regardless of size and less than 5 hours of navigation	- VHF with capability on 156.8/156.6/156.3 MHz - SSB with capability on 2182/4125/6215.5 KHz
		Regardless of size and more than 5 hours of navigation	- VHF with capability on 156.8/156.6/156.3 MHz - SSB with capability on 2182/4125/6215.5 KHz - Main and reserve receiver and reserve power supply

- c. No ship/ vessel registered with the Philippine Government plying domestic and international routes as indicated in the above paragraph (a and b) shall attempt or willfully leave any Philippine port without the mandated radio installation onboard.

- d. All Philippine-registered vessels/ watercrafts, and water conveyances shall ensure that radio equipment to be used onboard are accredited by PCG.
- e. For the purpose of the legality of the PCG-accreditation of radio communication equipment, all Philippine-registered vessels covered by this circular shall possess the Certificate of Accreditation onboard prior departure.
- f. No Philippine-registered vessels/ watercrafts and water conveyances shall be allowed to navigate within Philippine Waters without radio communication's Certificate of Accreditation issued by PCG and displayed onboard the vessel.

VI. PENALTIES:

All Philippine-registered vessels/ watercrafts and water conveyances found to be non-compliant and/ or any violation of the provision of this circular shall be detained until such time such vessel shall comply with this circular.

Further, in addition to such detention, a fine of PHP 1,000.00 shall be imposed per day until compliance thereof.

VII. RESCISSION:

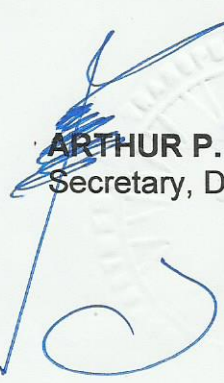
All policies, directives, and orders that are inconsistent with this circular are hereby amended, rescinded, or repealed accordingly.

VIII. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE:

If any provision or portion of this circular is declared unconstitutional, contrary to law, or invalid the remainder of this circular shall not be affected by such declaration and shall remain in force and effect.

IX. EFFECTIVITY:

This circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation and upon filing of three (3) certified copies thereof with the University of the Philippines Law Center.


ARTHUR P. TUGADE
Secretary, DOTr



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