
Notice on the recent ship detentions by Australia Port State Control due to GMDSS-related deficiencies

Related Ship Companies / approved Organizations of Radio Installation Inspection:

Since the beginning of 2010, many ships have been detained by Australia Port State Control (PSC) due to the deficiencies related to GMDSS equipment, especially to MF/HF radio installation. Recently, such kind of deficiencies leads a significantly increasing trend in the number of detained ships. Related ship companies / approved Organizations of Radio Installation Inspection are kindly advised to pay due attention to this situation and take proper measures accordingly.

Through analysis, main types of GMDSS-related deficiencies are found as follows:

1 Operation: Seafarers are not familiar with power change-over operation of GMDSS equipment; Equipment malfunction is shown on the regular test report, but no measures have been taken to rectify it.

2 Equipment malfunction: Mainly because MF/HF equipment does not work properly.

3 Electric power supply problem: Mainly because the supply cannot meet the requirements (or seafarers can not demonstrate that the supply is proper due to they are not familiar with the requirements and actual circumstances of supply). Such problem occupies a large proportion in the number of detained ships.

For the above-mentioned, related Ship Companies / approved Organizations of Radio Installation Inspection are required to do as follows:

1 Ship companies are to confirm immediately that the power supply to GMDSS equipments comply with the requirements of SOLAS convention and the corrective actions are to be taken as necessary.

2 Ship companies should strengthen the relevant training to seafarers: Officers are to be familiar with the relevant provisions of SOLAS and can carry out the test of power changeover expertly.

3 Seafarer should carry out DSC tests by reserve power supply at regular intervals as required and record on the radio log in detail, especially write down clearly which power was used by test.

4 Ship companies should supervise and urge ship to take strictly a proper inspection before arrival of ports, including the inspection and test for GMDSS equipment, and to make record correspondingly.

5 Equipment (incl. power) problems found should be reported immediately by ship to its company and the company should make an arrangement for repair as soon as possible and reply in time. During the PSC inspection, the deficiencies unsolved on

board should be reported to PCS officers before the inspection with evidence showing it has been under arrangement.

6 Approved Organizations of Radio Installation Inspection should strengthen the training and education to its inspectors to conduct the testing strictly in accordance with requirements, especially the testing for disposal of GMDSS power supply. The Organizations must ask ship to rectify the problems found and inform CCS local office which carried out the survey and responsible surveyors. During testing, it should also be affirmed that the radio-operation personnel on board are able to operate GMDSS equipment proficiently.

Requirements for the electric power supply of GMDSS equipment:

1 Main power of GMDSS equipments should be supplied directly by main switch board (or through emergency switchboard for ships with a keel laid before 1 Feb 1995).

2 Electric cables (wires) for equipment should be fixed installation and connected by wire terminals to ensure the reliability of supply. Supply sockets are not allowed to use.

3 Each set of equipments is to be supplied by an independent final sub-circuit from distribution board individually (set with independent short-circuit and overload protection). It is not allowed that one circuit of power is used for different equipments;

4 Each set of GMDSS equipments should be supplied by main and reserve source supply (for the ship with a keel laid before 1 Feb 1995), or by main source, emergency source and reserve source supply (for the ship with a keel laid on or after 1 Feb 1995). The power sources can change over automatically. If GMDSS equipments are not supplied by emergency power source or emergency power source cannot automatic supply to the equipments, reserve supply should be able to work lasting 6 hours at least (generally, four pieces of 6JC-195 batteries can meet the requirements). For more details, please refer to regulation 43, Chapter II-1 and regulation 13, Chapter IV of SOLAS Convention.

5 The supply requirements of GPS used to offer position information to GMDSS is the same as those of GMDSS.

6 Suitable illuminations of radio control console for operating radio equipments supplied by reserve power should be set up. It should be an adjustable lighting if the lighting cannot be sheltered and leads a possible influence on night sailing.

Ship companies, especially masters sailing in Australian region, are kindly advised to pay due attention and take appropriate actions to avoid ship detention.

Hereby notify the above.

Classed Ship in Service Department
China Classification Society