

**17Jan2017 FCC
Marine communications
Rule Changes
as identified
15DEC2016**



*By
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Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRB)

- Only 406.0-406.1 EPIRBs with a built in GPS will be authorized for sale in the US.
- EPIRBs without position information may be used for the next 6 years
- Clarification is made that older 21.5/243 MHz EPIRBs are prohibited. (This was adopted in 2002)



Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs)

- Must have an integral GPS
- Adding a test function structure and requirement
- Limit Calls to “Distress and Safety of Life” as opposed to “Distress and Safety Communications”
- PLB owners must register their devices with NOAA
 - Prefers the registration be completed on-line
- Sales of non-compliant PLBs will stop in 3 years



Satellite Emergency Notification Devices (SEND)



- No Established definition for the term “SEND”
 - Non 406 MHz emergency reporting subscription devices
 - Devices are not part of Marine FCC rules, but come under Part 25 – Mobile Satellite Services (MSS)
 - Appears to be referring to devices like “SPOT”.
- Developing standards for interface with providers into the maritime technical standards.
- Only devices marketed as SEND devices will meet the standards and interface to the Search and Rescue systems.

Maritime Survivor Locating Devices (MSLDs)

- Not a 406 device and monitored by personnel at the wearers facility
- Developed standards to allow additional responders
- Coordination of the Coast Guard for equipment authorization
- The function on the MSLD to report a distress condition is only permitted if endorsed by the Coast Guard in its pre-certification review.

Automatic Identification System Search and Rescue Transmitter (AIS-SARTs)

- AIS to transmit a unique code and position to be picked up by AIS vessels
- IMO has also authorized and FCC will incorporate the IMO standards



Ship Radar

- Standards for voluntary vessels Ships Radar were required to comply with international standard IEC62252.
- The required IEC 62252 requirement has been withdrawn
- A new standard is being developed
- Voluntary vessels may carry radar intended for solely on volunteer vesels without reference to any standard.

Portable Marine VHF Radios on Shore

- The present rules eliminate the use of marine portable VHF radios on shore.
- The GMDSS Task Force has convinced the FCC to allow use of portables adjacent to the water such as docks and beaches.
- Communications must relate to the operational and business needs of the associated vessel.

VHF Digital Small Message Services (VDSMS)

- The ITU has acknowledged that VDSMS is the proper direction to move with Marine VHF
- A standard was developed to allow digital messaging on VHF on a not to interfere basis.
- One communications standard/protocol has been established and we should expect to see digital messaging equipment in the market place. Not authorized on Channels:
 - 01A,63A,05A, 65A,06,66A,67,70,12,13,73,14,74,15,75,16, 76,17,77,20A,22A, AIS channels

Prohibition of transferring Ship Station License

- The FCC has agreed that the present system of requiring Ship Station radio license be canceled and not transferred to the new owner is not efficient.
- The rules will be modified to allow transfer of the Ship Station Radio License to the new boat owner.
- Failure to transfer control of the license to the new owner will result in actions against both parties.

New VHF Marine Channels Approved for 2017

- Due to the increased need of more marine VHF channels for VTS, commercial requirements, and port operations, a recent ITU World Radio Conference has authorized and developed a new channel plan for the VHF marine radio frequencies. This new channel plan will take effect January 1, 2017.

New VHF Marine Channels Approved for 2017

➤ Impact:

- Either upgrade your existing radio or buy a new one

➤ The plan:

- Current duplex channels 19, 20, 78, and 79,
- Split into 8 new simplex channels.
- In the past the US has used A and B when we split an international duplex channel for simplex use e.g. 22A with 22B not being used.
- The ITU now has a 4 digit number such that 22A would now be represented as 1022 and 22B would be represented as 2022, if used.

New VHF Marine Channels Approved for 2017

- Example for prior to 2017:
 - Channel 19 is a duplex channel
 - Transmit frequency = 156.950 MHz
 - Receive frequency = 161.550 MHz
- Beginning January 2017
 - 156.950 MHz will become channel 1019
 - 161.550 MHz will become channel 2019.

New VHF Marine Channels Approved for 2017

- Available for digital (text and email) Channels
 - 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, and 86
- Channels may that may be used for AIS application testing
 - 27, 87, 28 and 88 (probably AIS-SART)
- 160.9 MHz
 - The unused frequency between present channels 65 and 66
 - To be used for testing of new applications.
 - Channel number: 2006.

New Designators

Past	New	Use
01	1001	Port, VTS
05	1005	Port, VTS
07	1007	Commercial VDSMS
18	1018	Commercial VDSMS
19	1019	Commercial VDSMS
20	1020	Port Ops Duplex
20	1020	Port Ops Simplex
21	1021	US Coast Guard Only
22A	1022	Coast Guard Working
23	1023	US Coast Guard Only

Past	New	Use
63	1063	Port Ops, Commercial, VTS
65	1065	Port Operations
66	1066	Port Operations
78	1078	Non-commercial, VDSMS
79	1079	Commercial, VDSMS
80	1080	Commercial, VDSMS
81	1081	US Government only
82	1082	US Government only
83	1083	US Coast Guard only

VDSMS = VHF Digital Small Message Service

Channels for Pleasure Craft

- ✓ Calling 9,
- ✓ Bridge to Bridge, Bridges:13
- ✓ Emergency and Hailing: 16,
- ✓ Working Channels: 68, 69, 70, 71,72,1078

My Cruising Books



- **Cruising Starting from Scratch**
- **Communications Made Simple for Cruisers**
- **ICOM IC M802 Made Simple for Cruisers**
- **Radar Made Simple for Cruisers**
- **Icom IC M802 Starting from Scratch**
- ***A New Ham I Am* Made Simple for Cruisers**
- **GMDSS Made Simple for Cruisers**
- **Cruising Log – Made Simple for Cruisers**