

S.I. No. 28/1992 - Merchant Shipping (Radio Installations) Rules, 1992.

S.I. No. 28 of 1992.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (RADIO INSTALLATIONS) RULES, 1992.

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S.I. No. 28 of 1992.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (RADIO INSTALLATIONS) RULES, 1992.

I, JOHN P. WILSON, Minister for the Marine, in exercise of the powers conferred on me by section 15 (as amended by sections 11 and 12 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1966 (No. 20 of 1966)) of the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Act, 1952 (No. 29 of 1952), the Communications (Transfer of Departmental Administration and Ministerial Functions) Order, 1987 (S.I. No. 91 of 1987), and the Communications (Transfer of Departmental Administration and Ministerial Functions) Order, 1991 (S.I. No. 26 of 1991), and after consultation with the Minister for Tourism, Transport and Communications, hereby make the following Rules:—

PART I GENERAL

1 Citation, **1.** (1) These rules may be cited as the Merchant Shipping (Radio Installations) Rules, commencement, 1992, and shall come into operation on the 1st day of February, 1992.
revocation and
application.

(2) The Merchant Shipping (Radio Installations) Rules, 1983 (S.I. No. 308 of 1983), the Merchant Shipping (Radio Installations) (Amendment) Rules, 1984 (S.I. No. 192 of 1984), and the Merchant Shipping (Radio Installations) (Amendment No. 2) Rules, 1985 (S.I. No. 281 of 1985), are hereby revoked.

(3) These Rules shall apply to:

(a) sea-going ships registered in the State, and

(b) other sea-going ships while they are within any port in the State:

Provided that these Rules shall not apply to sea-going ships registered in the State while such ships are being navigated within the Great Lakes of North America and their connecting and tributary waters as far east as the lower exit of the St. Lambert Lock at Montreal in the Province of Quebec, Canada.

(4) These Rules shall not apply to:

(a) troopships not registered in the State;

(b) ships not propelled by mechanical means;

(c) pleasure craft;

(d) fishing vessels;

(e) cargo ships of less than 300 tons.

(5) For the purpose of these Rules:

"ships constructed" means ship's the keels of which are laid or which are at a similar stage of construction;

"a similar stage of construction" means the stage of construction at which:—

(i) construction identifiable with a specific ship begins;

and

(ii) assembly of that ship has commenced comprising at least 50 tonnes or 1 per cent of the estimated mass of all structural material, whichever is less.

(6) Every ship shall comply with rules 6 (1) (d) and 6 (1) (f) not later than the 1st day of August, 1993.

(7) Subject to the provisions of paragraphs (6) and (8), every ship shall comply with these Rules.

(8) In a prosecution of a person for a contravention, prior to the 1st day of February, 1999, of rule 1 (7), in relation to a ship which was constructed prior to the 1st day of February, 1995, it shall be a defence for the person to show that if the rules revoked by rule 1 (2) had still been in force at the time of the contravention, the ship concerned would have been in compliance with them.

(9) No provision in these Rules shall prevent the use by any ship, survival craft or person in distress, of any means at their disposal to attract attention, make known their position and obtain help.

2 Interpretation. **2.** (1) In these Rules:—

"assigned frequency" means the centre of a frequency band assigned in accordance with the Radio Regulations;

"bridge-to-bridge communications" means communications between ships from the positions from which the ships are normally navigated;

"cargo ship" means a ship other than a passenger ship;

"cargo ship construction and survey rules" means the rules made by the Minister under section 3 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1966 (No. 20 of 1966), for the time being in force;

"continuous watch" means a radio watch that is not interrupted or is interrupted only for brief intervals when the ship's receiving capability is impaired or blocked by its own communications or when the facilities are under periodical maintenance or checks;

"digital selective calling" and "DSC" mean a technique using digital codes which enables a radio station to establish contact with, and transfer information to, another station or group of stations, and complying with the relevant recommendations as specified by the Department of the Marine;

"direct-printing telegraphy" means automated telegraphy techniques which comply with the relevant recommendations as specified by the Department of the Marine;

"fishing vessel" means a vessel which is for the time being employed in sea fishing, but does not include a vessel used otherwise than for profit;

"general radio communications" means operational and public correspondence traffic, other than distress, urgency and safety messages, conducted by radio;

"High Frequency" and "HF" mean the frequency spectrum between 3000 kHz and 30 MHz;

"INMARSAT" means the organisation established by the Convention on the International Maritime Satellite Organisation (INMARSAT) done in London on the 3rd day of September, 1976;

"International NAVTEX Service" means the co-ordinated broadcast and automatic reception on 518 kHz of maritime safety information by means of narrow-band direct-printing telegraphy using the English language;

"locating" means the finding of ships, aircraft, units or persons in distress;

"maritime safety information" means navigational and meteorological warnings, meteorological forecasts and other urgent safety related messages broadcast to ships;

"Medium Frequency" and "MF" mean the frequency spectrum between 300 kHz and 3000 kHz;

"Marine Notice" means a Notice described as such, issued by the Department of the Marine;

"the Minister" means the Minister for the Marine;

"passenger ship" means a ship carrying more than 12 passengers;

"pleasure craft" means a vessel (other than a passenger ship and ship engaged in trade) primarily used for sport and recreation;

"polar orbiting satellite service" means a service which is based on polar orbiting satellites which receive and relay distress alerts from satellite EPIRBs and which provides their position;

"radar transponder" means a survival craft radar transponder for search and rescue between ships or aircraft and survival craft;

"radio communication" means telecommunication by means of radio waves;

"radio communication service" means a service as defined in the Radio Regulations involving the transmission, emission and/or reception of radio waves for specific telecommunication purposes;