



GMDSS Implementation

The GMDSS was introduced by means of amendments to SOLAS which were adopted in 1988 and entered into force on 1 February 1992. It became fully operational on 1 February 1999. On that date, the Morse Code was phased out and all passenger ships and all cargo ships of 300 gross tonnage and upwards on international voyages are now required to carry equipment designed to improve the chances of rescue following an accident, including satellite emergency position indicating radio beacons (EPIRBs) and search and rescue transponders (SARTs) for the location of the ship or survival craft.

GMDSS Countdown

Between 1 February 1992 and 1 February 1999 existing ships can comply with the Chapter IV of SOLAS in force prior to 1 1992 or the GMDSS.

All ships have been required to carry a NAVTEX (transmission of maritime safety information) receiver and satellite EPIRBs (emergency position-indicating radio beacons) since 1 August 1993

Ships built on or after 1 February 1995 must comply with all applicable GMDSS requirements

On 1 February 1999 all passenger ships and all cargo ships of 300 gross tonnage and upwards on international voyages must comply with the GMDSS



1 February 1992 – ships **may** comply with the GMDSS requirements

1 August 1993 – ships **must** comply with satellite EPIRB and NAVTEX requirements

1 February 1995 – ships built **on or after** this date **must** fully comply with the GMDSS requirements

1 February 1999 – ships **must** comply with the GMDSS requirements

