

Federal Communications Commission

§ 80.1077

and Safety System related to Sea Areas A3 and A4.

[57 FR 9065, Mar. 16, 1992, as amended at 63 FR 49872, Sept. 18, 1998; 68 FR 46976, Aug. 7, 2003]]

§ 80.1075 Radio records.

A record must be kept, as required by the Radio Regulations and § 80.409 (a), (b) and (e), of all incidents connected with the radiocommunication service which appear to be of importance to safety of life at sea.

§ 80.1077 Frequencies.

The following table describes the frequencies used in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System:

Alerting:

406.0–406.1 EPIRBs	406.0–406.1 MHz (Earth-to-space). 1544–1545 MHz (space-to-Earth).
INMARSAT-E EPIRBs ¹²	1626.5–1645.5 MHz (Earth-to-space).
INMARSAT Ship Earth Stations capable of voice and/or direct printing.	1626.5–1645.5 MHz (Earth-to-space).
VHF DSC Ch. 70	156.525 MHz. ¹
MF/HF DSC ²	2187.5 kHz ³ , 4207.5 kHz, 6312 kHz, 8414.5 kHz, 12577 kHz, and 16804.5 kHz.

On-scene communications:

VHF Ch.16	156.8 MHz.
MF Radiotelephony	2182 kHz.
NBDP	2174.5 kHz.

Communications involving aircraft:

On-scene, including search and rescue.	156.8 MHz ⁴ , 121.5 MHz ⁵ , 123.1 MHz, 156.3 MHz, 2182 kHz, 3023 kHz, 4125 kHz, and 5680 kHz. ⁶
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Locating signals:

406–406.1 EPIRB Beacons	121.5 MHz.
9 GHz radar transponders	9200–9500 MHz.

Maritime safety information (MSI):

International NAVTEX	518 kHz. ⁷
Warnings	490 kHz, 4209.5 kHz.
NBDP	4210 kHz, 6314 kHz, 8416.5 kHz, 12579 kHz, 16806.5 kHz, 19680.5 kHz, 22376 kHz, 26100.5 kHz.
Satellite	1530–1545 MHz. ¹⁰

General distress and safety communications and calling:

Satellite	1530–1544 MHz (space-to-Earth) and 1626.5–1645.5 MHz (Earth-to-space). ¹⁰
Radiotelephony	2182 kHz, 4125 kHz, 6215 kHz, 8291 kHz, 12290 kHz, 16420 kHz, and 156.8 MHz.
NBDP	2174.5 kHz, 4177.5 kHz, 6268 kHz, 8376.5 kHz, 12520 kHz, and 16695 kHz.
DSC	2187.5 kHz, 4207.5 kHz, 6312 kHz, 8414.5 kHz, 12577 kHz, 16804.5 kHz, and 156.525 MHz.

Survival craft:

VHF radiotelephony	156.8 MHz and one other 156–174 MHz frequency
9 GHz radar transponders	9200–9500 MHz.

¹Frequency 156.525 MHz can be used for ship-to-ship alerting and, if within sea area A1, for ship-to-shore alerting.

²For ships equipped with MF/HF equipment, there is a watch requirement on 2187.5 kHz, 8414.5 kHz, and one other frequency.

³Frequency 2187.5 kHz can be used for ship-to-ship alerting and, if within sea area A2, for ship-to-shore alerting.

⁴Frequency 156.8 MHz may also be used by aircraft for safety purposes only.

⁵Frequency 121.5 MHz may be used by ships for aeronautical distress and urgency purposes.

⁶The priority of use for ship-aircraft communications is 4125 kHz, then 3023 kHz. Additionally, frequencies 123.1 MHz, 3023 kHz and 5680 kHz can be used by land stations engaged in coordinated search and rescue operations.

⁷The international NAVTEX frequency 518 kHz is the primary frequency for receiving maritime safety information. The other frequencies are used only to augment the coverage or information provided on 518 kHz.

⁸[Reserved]

⁹[Reserved]

¹⁰In addition to EPIRBs, 1544–1545 MHz can be used for narrowband distress and safety operations and 1645.5–1646.5 MHz can be used for relay of distress alerts between satellites. Feeder links for satellite communications are assigned from the fixed satellite service, see 47 CFR §2.106.

¹¹[Reserved]

¹²Service to INMARSAT-E EPIRB stations terminated on December 1, 2006, so distress signals from INMARSAT-E EPIRB stations will not be received by any Rescue Coordination Center.

[69 FR 64678, Nov. 8, 2004, as amended at 73 FR 4489, Jan. 25, 2008]

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR SHIP STATIONS

§ 80.1081 Functional requirements.

Ships, while at sea, must be capable:

(a) Except as provided in §§80.1087(a)(1) and 80.1091(a)(4)(iii), of transmitting ship-to-shore distress alerts by at least two separate and independent means, each using a different radiocommunication service;

(b) Of receiving shore-to-ship distress alerts;

(c) Of transmitting and receiving ship-to-ship distress alerts;

(d) Of transmitting and receiving search and rescue co-ordinating communications;

(e) Of transmitting and receiving on-scene communications;

(f) Of transmitting and receiving signals for locating;

(g) Of transmitting and receiving maritime safety information;

(h) Of transmitting and receiving general radiocommunications to and from shore-based radio systems or networks; and

(i) Of transmitting and receiving bridge-to-bridge communications.

§ 80.1083 Ship radio installations.

(a) Ships must be provided with radio installations capable of complying with the functional requirements prescribed by §80.1081 throughout its intended voyage and, unless exempted under §80.1071, complying with the requirements of §80.1085 and, as appropriate for the sea area of areas through which it will pass during its intended voyage, the requirements of either §80.1087, §80.1089, §80.1091, or §80.1093.

(b) The radio installation must:

(1) Be so located that no harmful interference of mechanical, electrical or other origin affects its proper use, and so as to ensure electromagnetic compatibility and avoidance of harmful interaction with other equipment and systems;

(2) Be so located as to ensure the greatest possible degree of safety and operational availability;

(3) Be protected against harmful effects of water, extremes of temperature and other adverse environmental conditions;

(4) Be provided with reliable, permanently arranged electrical lighting, independent of the main and emergency sources of electrical power, for the adequate illumination of the radio controls for operating the radio installation; and

(5) Be clearly marked with the call sign, the ship station identity and other codes as applicable for the use of the radio installation.

(c) Control of the VHF radiotelephone channels required for navigational safety must be immediately available on the navigating bridge convenient to the conning position and, where necessary, facilities should be available to permit radiocommunications from the wings of the navigating bridge. Portable VHF equipment may be used to meet the latter provision.

(d) Shipborne Integrated Radiocommunication System (IRCS) may be utilized to integrate all GMDSS equipment into a standard operator's console. Such installation must be certified in accordance with