



**To all shipowners and shipmanagers
of German-flag ships**

**SHIP SAFETY DIVISION
International Safety Management (ISM)**

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Your Ref., Your Letter of

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Our Re. (Please indicate in your reply)

II 59-3 BG /

Date

05.01.2007

ISM-Circular 01-2007

Satellite EPIRB - SOLAS Regulation IV/15.9 – Maintenance requirements

1. This circular informs about maintenance requirements for satellite EPIRBs as laid down in SOLAS regulation IV/15.9, as amended by Resolution MSC.152 (78).

2. The amended SOLAS regulation IV/15.9, which came into force on 1st July 2006, requires that satellite EPIRBs shall be tested annually for all aspects of operational efficiency, with special emphasis on checking the emission on operational frequencies, coding and registration. The time frame for annual testing of the satellite EPIRB is prescribed with respect to the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate and the Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate as follows:

- on passenger ships, within 3 months before the expiry date of the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate; and
- on cargo ships, within 3 months before the expiry date, or 3 months before or after the anniversary date, of the Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate.

The test may be conducted on board the ship or at an approved testing station. Shore-based maintenance of satellite EPIRBs at intervals not exceeding 5 years is now mandatory.

3. The provisions of SOLAS regulation IV/15.9 are subject to the survey for the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate or Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate. Authorities, other than the flag state administration, have to accept the completed radio survey and thus the valid Passenger Ship Safety Certificate or Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate as evidence that the EPIRB has been tested in accordance with the regulations, since there is no legal requirement to carry additional test certificates for the prescribed maintenance of satellite EPIRBs.

4. In cases where maintenance at an approved shore based facility has been carried out, relevant records should be available as proof for the competent radio surveyor that the satellite EPIRB has been inspected and tested in accordance with SOLAS regulation IV/15.9.

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Mon. - Wed. 8 am - 3 pm
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5. Shipowners, shipmanagers and designated persons are advised to bring this circular to the attention of their masters and officers. German ships should carry copies of this circular as evidence that the German flag state administration agrees with the above defined application of SOLAS regulation IV/15.9.

6. Any questions to the a.m. subject should be addressed to the Ship-Safety-Division/Department ISM.

Ship-Safety-Division
International Safety Management (ISM)
by order

T.Berger

This circular is electronically sent and is therefore not signed