

Resolution A.1202(34) (Adopted on 3 December 2025) (Agenda item 12)
CHARGES FOR DISTRESS, URGENCY AND SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS THROUGH
RECOGNIZED MOBILE SATELLITE SERVICES IN THE GLOBAL MARITIME DISTRESS
AND SAFETY SYSTEM (GMDSS)

ASSEMBLY
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Agenda item 12

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THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 15(j) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly in relation to regulations and guidelines concerning maritime safety,

RECALLING ALSO resolution 2 adopted by the International Conference on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, which recommends that States should arrange that participation in ship reporting systems shall be free of message cost to the ships concerned,

RECALLING FURTHER that regulation IV/4-1 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 ("the Convention"), requires the Maritime Safety Committee to determine the criteria, procedures and arrangements for the evaluation, recognition, review and oversight of the provision of mobile satellite services in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS),¹

NOTING that no charge is raised against ship stations for transmissions related to, inter alia, distress, urgency and safety communications in the maritime mobile service² in accordance with the special charging arrangements approved by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) under Recommendation ITU-T D.90 on *Charging, billing, international accounting and settlement in the maritime mobile service*, as regulated by article 58 of the ITU Radio Regulations,

RECOGNIZING the essential role and involvement of the recognized mobile satellite services in supporting and delivering the functional requirements specified in GMDSS,

¹ Refer to *Criteria for the provision of mobile satellite communication systems in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)* (resolution A.1203(34)).

² For the purposes of Recommendation ITU-T D.90, references to the term maritime mobile service are taken to cover the maritime mobile satellite service as well as the MF, HF and VHF radio media, unless specifically stated otherwise.

RECOGNIZING ALSO the need for establishing a harmonized and unified policy in respect of charges for distress, urgency or safety communications carried over the recognized mobile satellite services in the GMDSS,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendations made by the Maritime Safety Committee at its 109th session,

1 ADOPTS the revised *Charges for distress, urgency and safety communications through recognized mobile satellite services in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)*, which specifies charging policies towards shore authorities and ship stations, as set out in the annex to the present resolution;

2 REVOKES resolution A.707(17).

ANNEX

**CHARGES FOR DISTRESS, URGENCY AND SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS
 THROUGH RECOGNIZED MOBILE SATELLITE SERVICES IN THE GLOBAL MARITIME DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM (GMDSS)**

Services	Charge to shore authority	Charge to ship station (for information only)	Notes (for information only)
Distress traffic, including replies to initial distress alerts, calls or messages	NO	NO	Refer to SOLAS regulations IV/4 and V/7 for further information on the applicable services. See also <i>International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual</i> (IAMSAR Manual), volume III.
Search and rescue communications	NO	NO	
Maritime safety information (including navigational warnings, meteorological warnings and forecasts) and other urgent safety-related messages	YES	NO	Refer to SOLAS regulations IV/4 and V/4, and resolution A.706(17), as amended; regulation V/5 and resolution A.1051(27), as amended; and regulation V/6 for further information on applicable services. See also the <i>Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information</i> (MSC.1/Circ.1310, as revised).
Meteorological data	YES	NO	Meteorological reports can be made using special access code (SAC) 41 via the recognized mobile satellite service providers. See also SOLAS regulation V/5 and the <i>Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information</i> (MSC.1/Circ.1310, as revised).
Urgent navigational/meteorological danger messages	NO	NO	Refer to SOLAS regulations V/31 and V/32. Danger messages can be made using SAC 42 via the recognized mobile satellite service providers.

Services	Charge to shore authority	Charge to ship station (for information only)	Notes (for information only)
Ship reports	YES	NO	Refer to SOLAS regulation V/11 or, for search and rescue purposes, chapter 5 of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979. Ship reports can be made using SAC 43 via the recognized mobile satellite service providers. See also IAMSAR Manual, volume III.
Medical advice	YES	NO	Medical advice at sea can be obtained using SAC 32 via the recognized mobile satellite service providers. See also IAMSAR Manual, volume III.
Medical assistance for grave and imminent danger	NO	NO	Medical assistance for grave and imminent danger at sea can be obtained from agencies recognized by Administrations using SAC 38 via the recognized mobile satellite service providers. See also IAMSAR Manual, volume III.

Two-digit special access codes for safety services

Abbreviated dialling codes have been established for use by the recognized mobile satellite services to enable automatic routing of specific types of calls from ships to the appropriate addresses. The following two-digit codes pertain to safety services:

- 32 - Request for medical advice
- 38 - Request for medical assistance
- 39 - Request for maritime assistance
- 41 - Shipment of meteorological data
- 42 - Shipment of meteorological data and navigational dangers
- 43 - Ship reports

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