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**PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATION FOR  
SHIPBORNE INTEGRATED  
RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (IRCS)  
WHEN USED IN THE GMDSS**



TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY  
HONG KONG

## **FOREWORD**

1. This specification stipulates the minimum performance requirements for shipborne integrated radiocommunications system (IRCS) as required by the 1988 amendments to the 1974 International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) on the introduction of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS).
2. Under the Merchant Shipping (Safety) (GMDSS Radio Installations) Regulation (hereafter referred to as the Regulation) under sections 97 and 107 of the Merchant Shipping (Safety) Ordinance (Cap. 369), every GMDSS equipment to be provided under the Regulation --
  - a) shall conform to the relevant performance standards adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO); and
  - b) shall, in the case of equipment provided on Hong Kong ships, in addition, conform to appropriate performance specifications issued by the Telecommunications Authority (TA).
3. Under the provision of the Regulation, shipborne integrated radiocommunications system (IRCS) equipped in Hong Kong ships shall comply with this specification.
4. The TA has launched the HKTEC (Hong Kong Telecommunications Equipment Evaluation and Certification) Scheme for the evaluation and certification of telecommunications equipment, including GMDSS equipment. The details of the HKTEC Scheme can be found in the information note OFTA I 421. Under the Scheme, IRCS is classified under the Compulsory Certification Scheme (CCS) Category II. The application procedure for the type approval of such type of equipment can be found in the information note OFTA I 401.
5. Manufacturers or their specified agents, who wish to apply for type approval, shall contact:

Radio Laboratory,  
Standards Section,  
Office of the Telecommunications Authority,  
29/F., Wu Chung House,  
213 Queen's Road, East, Wanchai  
Hong Kong.

Tel. No. : +852 2343 7565  
Fax No. : +852 2343 5824
6. The TA may amend any part of this specification as and when he deems necessary.
7. The TA reserves the right to conduct tests or evaluations on models he considers to be technical variants and whose performance may differ as between models.

8. In case of doubt about the interpretation of this specification, the methods of carrying out the test and the validity of statements made by the manufacturers of the equipment, the decision of the TA shall be final.

9. The HKTA specifications and information notes are issued by the TA. The documents can be obtained through one of the following methods:-

- download direct through the OFTA's Internet Home Page. The Home Page address is <http://www.ofta.gov.hk>;
- hard copies will be available upon request to:-

Senior Telecommunications Engineer (Standards)  
Office of the Telecommunications Authority,  
29/F Wu Chung House,  
213 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong.  
Fax : +852 2803 5112

10. The publications of IMO can be obtained from :

International Maritime Organization  
4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR  
Tel: +44 171 735 7611  
Fax: +44 171 587 3210

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## 1. SCOPE OF SPECIFICATION

This specification stipulates the minimum performance requirements for shipborne integrated radiocommunications system (IRCS) as required by the 1988 amendments to the 1974 International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) for the introduction of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS).

Equipment complying with this specification shall be required to meet all relevant performance standards adopted by the relevant IMO Resolutions and technical characteristics as defined in the relevant ITU's Radio Regulations and Recommendations for the concerned equipment.

## 2. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Shipborne integrated radiocommunications system (IRCS) shall comply with the basic technical requirements as defined in :-

**IMO Resolution A.811(19)** on "Performance Standards for a Shipborne Integrated Radiocommunications System (IRCS) when Used in the GMDSS".

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