

**RADIO SPECTRUM AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Proposed New Performance Specification  
For VHF Radio Equipment as Coast Stations  
For Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)**

**Purpose**

This paper proposes the adoption of the following technical standard –

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| HKCA 1283<br>Issue 1 | Performance Specification for VHF Radio Equipment<br>as Coast Stations for Global Maritime Distress and<br>Safety System (GMDSS) |
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**Background**

2. GMDSS is an international communication system that utilizes terrestrial and satellite technology in conjunction with shipboard radio equipment to automate and improve emergency communications for the world's shipping industry. The basic concept of GMDSS is that search and rescue authorities ashore, as well as ships in the vicinity of a ship in distress, will be rapidly alerted to a distress incident so that they can assist in a co-ordinated search and rescue operation with minimum delay. All ships to which the regulations of International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea apply and cargo ships of 300 gross tonnage and above on international voyages must comply with the relevant GMDSS requirements.

3. Digital selective calling (DSC) forms a critical part of GMDSS which facilitates the user, in an emergency, simply the pressing of one button to initiate a distress call that provides rescuers with the identity and location of a ship. In the VHF band, DSC distress calls are conveyed over maritime VHF channel 70, frequency at 156.525 MHz. VHF radio equipment as coast stations for GMDSS (the equipment) are established ashore to monitor and acknowledge DSC distress calls, coordinate radio traffic and relays ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore communications. It is necessary to adopt technical standard for the certification of such equipment under the Hong Kong Telecommunications

Equipment Evaluation and Certification (HKTEC) Scheme.

### **Proposed New HKCA Specification**

4. The European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) has published EN 301 929-1<sup>1</sup> and EN 301 929-2<sup>2</sup> which cover the technical, method of measurement and compliance requirements of the equipment. Having considered the technical requirements and test procedures, it is recommended that EN 301 929-1 and EN 301-929-2 be adopted in the proposed HKCA 1283 as given in Annex.

### **Certification Requirement**

5. The equipment are classified under the Compulsory Certification Scheme (CCS) of the HKTEC Scheme. The equipment must be certified before they can be used in Hong Kong.

### **WTO Notification**

6. As the proposed new specification HKCA 1283 is based on open standard, notification to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) is not required.

### **Recommendation**

7. It is recommended that the proposed new specification HKCA 1283 as given in Annex be adopted by the CA.

### **Advice Sought**

8. Members are invited to comment on the recommendation in paragraph 7 above.

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<sup>1</sup> ETSI EN 301 929-1 entitles “Electromagnetic compatibility and Radio spectrum Matters (ERM); VHF transmitters and receivers as Coast Stations for GMDSS and other applications in the maritime mobile service; Part 1: Technical characteristics and methods of measurement”

<sup>2</sup> ETSI EN 301 929-2 entitles “Electromagnetic compatibility and Radio spectrum Matters (ERM); VHF transmitters and receivers as Coast Stations for GMDSS and other applications in the maritime mobile service, Part 2 : Harmonized EN under article 3.2 of the R&TTE Directive”

**Office of the Communications Authority  
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