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**GUIDANCE ON PROCEDURES FOR UPDATING SHIPBORNE NAVIGATION
AND COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), at its eighty-eighth session (24 November to 3 December 2010), approved the guidance on procedures for updating shipborne navigation and communication equipment, as prepared by the Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation (NAV) at its fifty-sixth session (26 to 30 July 2010).

2 Member Governments are invited to bring the information to the attention of all parties concerned.

ANNEX

GUIDANCE ON PROCEDURES FOR UPDATING SHIPBORNE NAVIGATION AND COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

Background

1 As navigation and radiocommunication equipment becomes increasingly software and firmware dependent, updates to application software and firmware to meet changes in IMO and ITU regulatory requirements are needed. This applies in the case of retrospective changes to regulations which apply to all relevant ships.

2 Means should be provided to replace software and firmware or install updates to software and firmware in systems aboard ships.

3 Manufacturers should provide customers and interested parties with timely access to relevant information.

4 Adequate navigation and radiocommunication equipment software and firmware maintenance arrangements should be implemented by shipowners and be supported by equipment manufacturers. Equipment should provide the means to display, on demand, the current applicable software and firmware versions.

Procedures

5 Member Governments should promulgate information to all affected parties in relation to IMO and ITU regulatory changes that have the potential to affect maritime navigation and radiocommunication equipment.

6 Equipment manufacturers should provide timely access to information pertaining to maritime navigation and radiocommunication equipment application software, for any relevant changes, originating from IMO and ITU regulations. This could, for example, be by website listing relevant regulations currently in effect for the equipment, equipment software and firmware versions, compliance status and regulatory type approvals for the listed configurations/versions. Update of operating systems and hardware may also be necessary to meet the changed requirements.

7 Shipowners should ensure that the vessel's equipment is up to date with the latest requirements.

8 In addition to the above, in the case of ECDIS refer to SN.1/Circ.266/Rev.1 as may be amended.