

Iridium EGC Functionality Testing Procedure V1.1

At its 99th session, the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 99) adopted resolution MSC.451(99) – *Statement of recognition maritime mobile satellite services provided by Iridium Satellite LLC* – for the Iridium safety voice, short-burst data and enhanced group calling services for use in the GMDSS. The MSC 99 acknowledged the role of the IMO International SafetyNET Coordinating Panel (to be re-named IMO Enhanced Group Call (EGC) Coordinating Panel from 1 January 2020), that worked on behalf of the Committee, with respect to the implementation of the provision of maritime safety information in accordance with the guidance material approved by the Committee.

The International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) informed the IMO Member States that Iridium Satellite LLC had signed a Public Service Agreement (PSA), one of the final administrative elements stipulated, in addition IMSO informed the MSC 99 that the outstanding technical requirements would be completed by 1 January 2020, when the necessary SOLAS amendments come into force, allowing ships using an Iridium Global Maritime Distress and Safety Service (GMDSS) receiver to be carriage compliant in accordance with the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974.

To ensure an orderly and managed operational introduction of the Iridium SafetyCast service into the GMDSS, the International SafetyNET Coordinating Panel, in association with all NAVAREA and METAREA Coordinator authorities and SAR Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) authorities, has developed a check list of operational procedures and requirements to be undertaken and completed during the Iridium SafetyCast service initial operational capability phase under the issuance of individual Initial Operational Certificates.

As each authority reports successful completion of all checks and procedures to the Chair of the International SafetyNET Coordinating Panel, he will issue individual Full Operational Certificates. When all authorities have been issued with their Full Operational Certificates and the supporting Iridium SafetyCast service manual has been adopted by the IMO Maritime Safety Committee and come into force, the Chair of the International SafetyNET Coordinating Panel will advise the IMO and request they declare the Iridium SafetyCast service fully operational and instruct IMSO to issue Iridium Satellite LLC with the final letter of compliance, the last item of the administrative process.

The careful completion of the check list of operational procedures and requirements by each authority is a vital step in the orderly and managed operational introduction of the Iridium SafetyCast service, which will help ensure that the maritime customer can have full confidence in the information being received and that the service is a world-wide service on which total reliance can be placed. Your assistance and cooperation in this process is much appreciated and a vital element in maintaining the World-Wide Navigational Warning and Worldwide MetOcean Information and Warning Services as well as full global SAR coverage.