



Merchant Shipping Directorate



Transport Malta

## MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION OFF THE AUSTRALIAN COAST

**Merchant Shipping Notice No. 131**

*Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters,  
Owners' Representatives and Recognised Organisations*

The Merchant Shipping Directorate draws the attention of all concerned to Marine Notice 13/2016, issued by the Australian Maritime Safety Agency (AMSA), revoking Marine Notice 13/2011. Inter alia, the revised Marine Notice requires that adequate measures are implemented by all ships transiting NAVAREA X, or navigating off the Australian coast, to ensure that they receive all Maritime Safety Information (MSI) necessary for the intended voyage.

All concerned are reminded that Maritime Safety Information, as defined in Reg. IV/2 of SOLAS 74, as amended, includes navigational and meteorological warnings, meteorological forecasts, and other urgent safety related messages broadcast to ships. Under the provisions of Reg. IV/7.1.5 of SOLAS 74, as amended, every ship shall be provided with a radio facility for reception of Maritime Safety Information by the INMARSAT EGC system if the ship is engaged on voyages in any area of INMARSAT coverage, but in which an international NAVTEX service is not provided.

It is important to note that Australia does not provide a NAVTEX service, but uses the INMARSAT-C EGC service as the primary means of promulgating Maritime Safety Information.

It is the responsibility of the Masters to ensure that their INMARSAT-C EGC receivers are correctly configured, even whilst in port (if needed), to receive Maritime Safety Information for NAVAREA X and the coastal warning areas appropriate to their intended voyage. In addition, the types of Maritime Safety Information to be received for the coastal warning areas need to be selected (e.g. navigational warnings, weather information, etc.).

The latest Maritime Safety Information may also be accessed through JRCC Australia on:

<http://www.amsa.gov.au/search-and-rescue/about-the-gmdss/msi-information/msi-email/index.asp>

AMSA recommends that ships compare the current list of Maritime Safety Information received via e-mail with that received via SafetyNET, in order to ensure that ships have received all current Maritime Safety Information, particularly when entering NAVAREA X for the first time, entering a new coastal warning area, or prior departure from a port.

More information on Maritime Safety Information and the limits of the Australian coastal areas can be obtained from the Admiralty List of Radio Signals (ALRS) Vol. 3 and Vol. 5, Seafarers Handbook for Australian Waters, the Australian Annual Notices to Mariners, Australian GMDSS Handbook, and the IMO's International SafetyNET Manual.

This Directorate advises that all Malta flagged ships should carry updated editions of the ALRS and the International SafetyNET Manual, at all times.

The co-operation of owners and operators of Malta flagged ships, and their representatives, is, therefore, solicited to ensure the uninterrupted operation of their ships.

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Merchant Shipping Directorate  
is ISO 9001:2008 certified

Transport Malta is the authority for Transport in Malta set up by Act XV of 2009