



Radiocommunication Bureau
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Circular Letter
CM/14

14 July 2005

To Administrations of Member States of the ITU

Subject: Questionnaire on the form, content and periodicity of the Manual for Use by the Maritime Mobile and Maritime Mobile-Satellite Services, of List VI and of Lists IV, V and VII A

References: No. 20.15 of the Radio Regulations and Appendix 16
Resolution 802 (WRC-03): agenda item 1.14 for WRC-07

To the Director-General

Dear Sir or Madam,

1 Foreword

In the frame of its agenda item 1.14, the forthcoming World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-07) will review the operational procedures and requirements of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) and other related provisions of the Radio Regulations, taking into account Resolutions 331 (Rev.WRC-03) and 342 (Rev.WRC-2000) and the continued transition to the GMDSS, the experience since its introduction and the needs of all classes of ships. Therefore, this agenda item offers the possibility to the membership to address also the issue of the form, content and periodicity of service publications referred to in Article 20 of the Radio Regulations, bearing in mind the carriage requirements referred to in Appendix 16 of the Radio Regulations, as well as the changes in the availability of new forms/formats of publication.

In this context, and after informal consultations with representatives from several Member States the Bureau submitted two contributions to ITU-R Working Party 8B, for its meeting in April 2005 ([Document 8B/112-E](#) dealing with the future form, content and periodicity of the “Manual for Use by the Maritime Mobile and Maritime Mobile-Satellite Services”, and [Document 8B/161-E](#) dealing with the form, content and periodicity of Lists IV, V, VI and VII A). Working Party 8B considered the matter and suggested to the Bureau to consult the maritime community on these issues, using the Questionnaires agreed at the meeting of Working Party 8B.

2 Background information regarding Lists IV, V, VI and VII A

2.1 Article 20 of the Radio Regulations (RR) “Service Publications” stipulates in the provisions of Nos. 20.1, 20.7 to 20.10 and 20.15 that the following service publications “List IV – List of

Coast Stations”, “List V – List of Ship Stations”, “List VI - List of Radiodetermination and Special Service Stations”, and “List VII A – List of Call Signs and Numerical Identities of Stations Used by the Maritime Mobile and Maritime Mobile-Satellite Services”, shall be issued, by the Secretary-General, and that the form, the content and the periodicity shall be decided by the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) in consultation with administrations and international organizations concerned.

2.2 Appendix 16 to the RR “Documents with which stations on board ships and aircraft shall be provided” lists these service publications as part of the publications with which ship stations under certain conditions shall be provided.

2.3 The provisions related to Lists IV, V, VI, and VII A of the current Article 20 have a very long history. They entered first into International Regulations as a result of the decisions of the Washington Conference in 1927 (providing *inter alia* for a List of Ship Stations, and a List of Special Service Stations including Radiodetermination in Article 13) and underwent several changes later on.

In 1932, during the Conference of Madrid, in Article 15 of the Regulations these Lists were already defined as List I as the list containing both coast and ship stations and List III containing the special service stations including radiodetermination.

In 1947, the Conference of Atlantic City defined in Article 20 List IV as the list containing both coast and ship stations, List VI containing the radiodetermination stations, List VII containing the special service stations, and List VIII as the list containing the call signs.

WARC-59 re-arranged Article 20, and with the new Lists IV, V, VI, and VII A the structure of the Lists in the general subdivision as used till today was laid down.

2.4 In the general revision of the Radio Regulations carried out at WARC-79 they were moved to the former Article 26. Until WRC-95, some of these provisions were changed by WARC Mob-87, the others remained unchanged.

2.5 Following the suggestions of the Voluntary Group of Experts (VGE) on the simplification of the RR, WRC-95 agreed to list only, in the new Article S20, the various service publications and to move the information on their contents and other related parts of the RR to the service publications themselves (RR edition of 1998 refers).

2.6 After WRC-95, the Bureau continued with the well-established procedures on periodicity and contents and issued, at regular intervals, new editions and supplements of the said publications.

2.7 It should be noted that List IV - List of Coast Stations, List V - List of Ship Stations, and List VII A - List of Call Signs and Numerical Identities of Stations Used by the Maritime Mobile and Maritime Mobile-Satellite Services are referred to in Section VA of Appendix 16 (Stations on board ships for which a GMDSS installation is required by international agreement), whereas “List VI - List of Radiodetermination and Special Service Stations” is referred to in Section I of Appendix 16 (Ship stations for which a Morse radiotelegraph installation is required by international agreement). The only relevant international agreement in force, however, is the "International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended" and requires only GMDSS installation after the date of the full implementation of the GMDSS (1 February 1999).

2.8 In implementing Resolution 340 (WRC-97) - Need for additional search and rescue information in databases, the Bureau consulted with administrations at various occasions and, as a consequence, incorporated the additional information in its database and the relevant publication (List V). Due to the very large volume of data and the increasing number of entries in the database, further consultations lead to a reduced paper publication (containing now only ship stations subject to SOLAS but excluding pleasure crafts) whereas the CD-ROM (Part B of List V) and the online access system via the Web (MARS) provide information on the full range of entries in the database.

2.9 The maintenance of “List VI - List of Radiodetermination and Special Service Stations” under the new rules of the GMDSS has been subject to various discussions and it has been pointed out that this publication may have lesser value for many administrations than alternative publications such as the Admiralty List of Radio Signals issued by the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office, which is maintained at more frequent intervals.

3 Background information regarding the “Manual for Use by the Maritime Mobile and Maritime Mobile-Satellite Services”

3.1 Article 20 of the Radio Regulations (RR) “Service Publications” stipulates in the provisions of Nos. 20.1, 20.14 and 20.15 that the “Manual for Use by the Maritime Mobile and Maritime Mobile-Satellite Services” shall be issued, by the Secretary-General, and that the form, the content and the periodicity shall be decided by the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) in consultation with administrations and international organizations concerned.

3.2 Appendix 16 to the RR “Documents with which stations on board ships and aircraft shall be provided” lists the “Manual for Use by the Maritime Mobile and Maritime Mobile-Satellite Services” as one of the publications with which ship stations under certain conditions shall be provided.

3.3 The provisions related to the “Manual for Use by the Maritime Mobile and Maritime Mobile-Satellite Services “ of the current Article 20 entered into the RR as a result of the decisions of WARC-79 and were incorporated into the former Article 26 (Nos. 2230-2236 refer).

3.4 Until WRC-95, these provisions remained unchanged stipulating that “this Manual shall contain the relevant extracts from the International Telecommunication Convention in force, the Radio Regulations in force, the Telegraph Regulations in force, the current “Instructions for the Operation of the International Public Telegram Service” and CCITT Resolutions and Recommendations, the Telephone Regulations in force and the current “Instructions for the Operation of the International Telephone Service” and CCITT Resolutions and Recommendations”. It was also stipulated that the Manual should be revised as needed, especially after administrative conferences and Plenary Assemblies of the CCITT and/or the CCIR, and new editions be published at intervals to be determined by the Secretary-General.

3.5 Following the suggestions of the Voluntary Group of Experts (VGE) on the simplification of the RR, WRC-95 agreed to list only, in the new Article S20, the various service publications and to move the information on their contents and other related parts of the RR to the service publications themselves (RR edition of 1998 refers).

3.6 After WRC-95, the Bureau continued with the well established procedures on periodicity and contents and issued, following each new edition of the RR, a revised version of the “Manual for Use by the Maritime Mobile and Maritime Mobile-Satellite Services” (1996, 1999, 2002, and 2005 editions).

3.7 It should be noted that the sole purpose of the “Manual for Use by the Maritime Mobile and Maritime Mobile-Satellite Services” has been to provide the maritime community with a compilation of treaty and regulatory and other ITU texts relevant to the maritime mobile and maritime mobile-satellite services as defined above, and that due to its particular regulatory status it has not been aimed at being a “ Handbook” describing the GMDSS and/or other maritime operational procedures.

4 Questionnaires

4.1 Annex 1 to this circular letter contains a Questionnaire regarding the future form, content and periodicity of the Manual for Use by the Maritime Mobile and Maritime Mobile-Satellite Services. Annex 2 to this circular letter contains a Questionnaire on the form, content and periodicity of List VI and of Lists IV, V, and VII A. Your Administration/organization is invited to consider the questionnaire and to provide answers to the Radiocommunication Bureau, with any additional suggestions you may have on the subject matter.

4.2 The Bureau suggest to the administrations of the ITU Member States to bring also this issue to the attention of the entities dealing with maritime matters, which use the Service Publications for their operational needs. For this purpose, the Bureau has posted this circular letter on the ITU's MARS website at: <http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=e&type=sfolders&parent=R00-CM-CIR>

4.3 The Bureau also invites the administrations of the Member States to submit contributions on this issue to the forthcoming meeting of Working Part 8B (20 – 27 September 2005), to the CPM and to WRC-07.

4.4 The Bureau remains at the disposal of Administrations, as well as to numerous users and subscribers to ITU Service Publications, for any further information and clarifications they may need in respect to these matters. The Bureau's contact person for matters concerning the Manual is Mr W. Frank (telephone: +41 22 730 5062, fax: +41 22 7305785, e-mail: brmail@itu.int) and for the other Lists is Mr M. Das (telephone: +41 22 730 5007, fax: +41 22 7305785, e-mail: brmail@itu.int).

Yours faithfully,

Valery Timofeev
Director
Radiocommunication Bureau

Attached: *Annex 1: Questionnaire concerning the Maritime Manual*
Annex 2: Questionnaire concerning List VI and Lists IV, V and VIIA

Distribution:

- Administrations of Member States of the ITU
- Members of the Radio Regulations Board
- International Maritime Organisation.

ANNEX 1

QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE FUTURE FORM, CONTENT AND PERIODICITY
OF THE “MANUAL FOR USE BY THE MARITIME MOBILE AND
MARITIME MOBILE-SATELLITE SERVICES”

	Yes	No	N/A
1. Do you regularly subscribe to the new editions of the Manual?			
2. Do you use this publication in paper format?			
3. Do you use this publication in electronic format? (CD-ROM)			
4. Do you use this publication in both formats?			
5. Would you recommend continuing this publication in paper format in general?			
6. Would you prefer to continue this publication in electronic format in general?			
7. Would you prefer to provide ship stations regularly with paper format?			
8. Would you prefer to provide ship stations regularly with the electronic format?			
9. Do you consider this publication necessary to be carried on board ships subject to Appendix 16, Section VA (vessels subject to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended)?			
10. Do you consider this publication necessary to be carried on board ships not subject to Appendix 16, Section VA (vessels not subject to SOLAS, 1974, as amended)?			
11. Would you exempt certain categories of ships subject to Appendix 16, Section VA, from the mandatory carriage requirement of this publication?			
12. Do you agree with the current periodicity of issuing the Manual (i.e. after each new edition of the Radio Regulations reflecting regulatory changes applicable to the maritime mobile and/or maritime mobile-satellite service)?			
13. Do you prefer shorter intervals between two editions?			
14. Do you prefer longer intervals between two editions?			
15. Do you consider the current content as sufficient?			
16. Do you consider that the content should be shortened to the treaty and other regulatory texts?			

	Yes	No	N/A
17. Do you consider that the content should be extended to include the full range of Recommendations applicable to the maritime mobile and/or maritime mobile-satellite service?			
18. Do you have any additional comments on <u>form</u> , <u>content</u> or <u>periodicity</u> or the <u>carriage requirements</u> ? If so, please specify below.			
19. Do you have any additional comments on how to improve this publication for use on board ships? If so, please specify below.			

ANNEX 2

QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE FORM, CONTENT AND PERIODICITY OF LIST VI
AND OF LISTS IV, V AND VIIA

	Yes	No	N/A
1. Do you regularly subscribe to the editions of Lists IV?			
2. Do you regularly subscribe to the editions of Lists V?			
3. Do you regularly subscribe to the editions of Lists VI?			
4. Do you regularly subscribe to the editions of Lists VIIA?			
5. Would you recommend continuing these publications in paper format in general?			
6. Would you prefer to continue these publications in electronic format in general?			
7. Would you prefer to provide ship stations regularly with paper format?			
8. Would you prefer to provide ship stations regularly with the electronic format?			
9. Do you consider that the Lists should be combined in a consolidated electronic maritime publication?			
10. Do you consider that RR Appendix 16 needs to be reviewed with respect to the mandatory carriage requirements?			
11. Would you exempt certain categories of ships subject to RR Appendix 16, from the mandatory carriage requirement of these publications?			
12. Do you agree with the current periodicity of issuing the Lists?			
13. Do you prefer shorter intervals between two editions?			
14. Do you prefer longer intervals between two editions?			
15. Do you consider that the content should be revised?			
16. Do you see/propose additional elements to be included in the service publications to make them more relevant to today's needs? If yes, please enter your proposals below:			
List IV -			
List V -			
List VI -			
List VIIA -			

Questionnaire on the form, content and periodicity of List VI and of Lists IV, V, and VII A				Yes	No	N/A
17. Do you consult the information available on ITU's maritime website MARS? If yes,						
Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Seldom			
18. Do you have any additional comments on <u>form</u> , <u>content</u> or <u>periodicity</u> or the <u>carriage requirements</u> ? If so, please specify below						
19. Do you have any additional comments on how to improve this/these publications for use on board ships? If so, please specify below.						