

Marine Information Bulletin

Use of mobile telephones for communications at sea

Background

As a result of the introduction of the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Regulation 1995*, the requirement to comply with Section 12 (Radio) of the Uniform Shipping Laws Code is no longer mandatory.

Maritime Safety Queensland has received reports that owners have removed H.F. radios from seagoing commercial ships as a cost saving measure. Maritime Safety Queensland is concerned that this may have been done on the assumption that a mobile phone is sufficient for communicating with another ship or a shore based radio station and that this ensures that they meet their safety obligations.

Determination

Maritime Safety Queensland does not regard mobile telephones as appropriate or sufficient as the primary method of communication at sea. There are a number of reasons: lack of reliable battery power and inability to access to infrastructure and trained personnel in an emergency situation.

Maritime Safety Queensland has developed this determination following discussions with the Australian Communications and Media Authority (formerly Spectrum Management Agency).

Contact information

If you require further information about this Marine Information Bulletin, please contact: 07 3120 7341 or msqmail@msq.qld.gov.au

Other Marine Information Bulletins covering various topics relating to the safe operation of ships may be obtained from the Maritime Safety Queensland website at www.msq.qld.gov.au and at the following Marine Operations Centres.

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