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MSC.1/Circ.1635  
11 November 2020

### **IMO ENHANCED GROUP CALL COORDINATING PANEL**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its 102nd session (4 to 11 November 2020), in approving the revised *International SafetyNET Services Manual* (MSC.1/Circ.1364/Rev.2), agreed, inter alia, to remove and relocate the terms of reference for the IMO Enhanced Group Call Coordinating Panel and the procedures for authorization, certification and registration of Enhanced Group Call information providers under a separate circular.

2 Consequentially, the Committee approved the terms of reference of the IMO Enhanced Group Call Coordinating Panel and the procedures for authorization, certification and registration of Enhanced Group Call information providers, including procedures for amendment, prepared by the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR), at its seventh session (15 to 24 January 2020), as set out in annexes 1, 2 and 3, respectively.

3 The Committee agreed that the attached terms of reference and procedures should be applicable as from 1 January 2021, when the revised *International SafetyNET Services Manual* contained in MSC.1/Circ.1364/Rev.2 will become effective.

4 Member States and international organizations are invited to bring this circular to the attention of all parties concerned.

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## ANNEX 1

### IMO ENHANCED GROUP CALL COORDINATING PANEL

#### 1 Terms of reference

To coordinate the development and use of the International Enhanced Group Call (EGC)\* service, and in particular to:

- .1 develop operating methods for the effective use of EGC services, including consideration of the need for scheduled broadcasts;
- .2 develop documentation in support of EGC services, in particular the IMO manuals of the recognized mobile satellite service provider(s);
- .3 advise recognized mobile satellite service provider(s) and potential registered information providers on all aspects of EGC services, including system access and effective operation;
- .4 develop criteria and establish means for the approval and registration of potential information providers to ensure worldwide coverage is achieved and maintained, and ensure agreements are conducted with all recognized mobile satellite service provider(s) serving the required sea area;
- .5 coordinate the registration of potential information providers; and
- .6 promote a proper understanding of the benefits and use of EGC services among the wider maritime community.

#### 2 Contact address

The IMO Enhanced Group Call Coordinating Panel can be contacted at the following address:

The Chair  
IMO Enhanced Group Call Coordinating Panel  
International Maritime Organization  
4 Albert Embankment  
London SE1 7SR  
United Kingdom  
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611, Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210  
Email: [ncsr@imo.org](mailto:ncsr@imo.org) (in subject line add: "for Chair, IMO Enhanced Group Call Coordinating Panel")

#### 3 Panel membership

3.1 The IMO Enhanced Group Call Coordinating Panel is open to membership by all Member Governments and also includes one member nominated by each of the following international organizations:

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\* Enhanced Group Call (EGC) means the broadcast of coordinated Maritime Safety Information and Search and Rescue related information, to a defined geographical area using a recognized mobile satellite service.

- .1 International Maritime Organization (IMO);
- .2 International Hydrographic Organization (IHO);
- .3 World Meteorological Organization (WMO); and
- .4 International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO).

3.2 The following may be represented as observers on the panel:

- .1 IHO Worldwide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee;
- .2 IMO NAVTEX Coordinating Panel;
- .3 WMO Services Commission (SERCOM); and
- .4 a single representative from each recognized mobile satellite service provider.

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## ANNEX 2

### AUTHORIZATION, CERTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION OF ENHANCED GROUP CALL INFORMATION PROVIDERS

Two distinct and separate processes, authorization and certification, should be completed before an information provider will be granted registration to access the International Enhanced Group Call (EGC) service. They have been established to protect the integrity of the EGC information service and clearly establish a qualification to the special EGC tariff.

#### **1 Authorization**

1.1 Authorization is carried out by IMO in consultation with IHO and WMO, as appropriate.

1.2 In order to obtain authorization to broadcast Maritime Safety Information (MSI) and/or Search and Rescue (SAR) related information through the International EGC service, an information provider should apply to the relevant international organization for approval to participate in the internationally coordinated service:

- .1 Hydrographic authorities – to IHO;
- .2 Meteorological authorities – to WMO;
- .3 Search and Rescue authorities – to IMO;
- .4 The International Ice Patrol – to IMO; and
- .5 Others – to IMO.

1.3 In considering such applications, the relevant international organizations will take into account:

- .1 the established and expected availability of other information sources for the area concerned; and
- .2 the need to minimize duplication of information as much as possible.

1.4 The relevant international organization will inform IMO of endorsed applications.

#### **2 Certification**

2.1 On receipt of IMO authorization, the IMO Enhanced Group Call Coordinating Panel will issue a Certificate of Authorization to participate in the international EGC service directly to the information provider with a copy to IMO or IHO or WMO, as well as to the recognized mobile satellite service provider(s) concerned. A specimen Certificate of Authorization is shown in section 5.

2.2 The IMO Enhanced Group Call Coordinating Panel will maintain the master list of all registered information providers and circulate it to the IMO, IHO and WMO Secretariats, and the recognized mobile satellite service provider(s) concerned.

### **3 Registration**

3.1 After receiving a Certificate of Authorization, an information provider should conclude an agreement with the recognized mobile satellite service provider(s) concerned, serving the required sea area(s), to obtain access to the system.

3.2 This will involve, in addition to the contractual aspects, registration of the information provider's identity which should be programmed into the control equipment of the recognized mobile satellite service provider(s).

3.3 Recognized mobile satellite service provider(s) will only register information providers who have received a Certificate of Authorization from the IMO Enhanced Group Call Coordinating Panel.

### **4 Contact addresses**

#### **International Maritime Organization**

The Chair

IMO Enhanced Group Call Coordinating Panel

4 Albert Embankment

London SE1 7SR

United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611

Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

Email: [ncsr@imo.org](mailto:ncsr@imo.org) (in subject line add: for Chair, IMO Enhanced Group Call Coordinating Panel)

#### **International Hydrographic Organization**

4b quai Antoine 1er

BP 445

MC98011 Monaco Cedex

Principauté de MONACO

Telephone: +377 93 10 81 00

Fax: +377 93 10 81 40

Email: [info@iho.int](mailto:info@iho.int)

#### **World Meteorological Organization**

7bis, avenue de la Paix

Case postale 2300

CH-1211 Geneva 2

Switzerland

Telephone: + 41(0) 22 730 81 11

Fax: + 41(0) 22 730 81 81

Email: [mmo@wmo.int](mailto:mmo@wmo.int)

5 Sample Certificate of Authorization



Issue date: [date]

Certificate No: [number]

**Certificate of Authorization**

This Certificate of Authorization allows:

**[name of MSI or SAR provider]**

to broadcast [maritime safety information  
and/or search and rescue related information]  
through the International Enhanced Group Call service in accordance  
with the IMO manual of the recognized mobile satellite service providers.

.....  
[Name of the Chair]  
Chair  
IMO Enhanced Group Call Coordinating Panel

Name of MSI or SAR provider  
Address

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### **ANNEX 3**

#### **PROCEDURE FOR AMENDMENT**

1 Proposals for amendment or enhancement of the annexes to this circular should be submitted for evaluation by the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR). Amendments should only be implemented after consideration and approval by the Maritime Safety Committee.

2 Amendments to this circular should normally be approved at intervals of approximately 2 years or at such longer periods as may be determined by the Maritime Safety Committee. Amendments approved by the Maritime Safety Committee will be notified to all concerned and will become effective on 1 January of the following year, or at another date as decided by the Committee.

3 The agreement of the International Hydrographic Organization, the International Mobile Satellite Organization, the World Meteorological Organization and the active participation of other bodies should be sought, according to the nature of the proposed amendments.

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