MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE
SHIPPING CIRCULAR
NO. 15 OF 2015

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Applicable to: This circular should be brought to the attention to all Singapore ship-owners, ship-managers, shipmasters and crew of Singapore ships and the shipping community

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FOR TESTING OF THE SHIP SECURITY ALERT SYSTEMS (SSAS) ON SINGAPORE-REGISTERED SHIPS

This Circular serves to inform shipowners, managers and operators of Singapore-registered ships of the test procedures and the change in the dedicated email address for receiving Ship Security Alert Systems (SSAS) alerts. This Circular would also supercede Shipping Circular No. 16 of 2006 and Shipping Circular No. 9 of 2011.

Flag State's Email Address

2   Shipowners and managers of ships that are newly registered with the Singapore Registry of Ships (SRS) from the date of this circular onwards should ensure that the SSAS of the ships are programmed with the email address Shipalert@mpa.gov.sg with effect from their date of registration with the Singapore Registry of Ships (SRS).

3   Shipowners and managers of existing Singapore-registered ships are required to programme the new email address Shipalert@mpa.gov.sg in the SSAS of the ships by their next annual radio survey or by **1 July 2016**, whichever is earlier.

4   Please take note that the difference in the old and new email address is that the text "_MPA" has been deleted after the text "Shipalert".

5   The old dedicated email address that has been in used – Shipalert_MPA@mpa.gov.sg would continue to be in use for receiving and responding to SSAS alerts and would co-exist with the new email address – Shipalert@mpa.gov.sg until 30 June 2016. With effect from 1 July 2016, the email Shipalert_MPA@mpa.gov.sg would cease to be in use.

<u>Mandatory Annual Testing</u>

6   We would like to once again bring the attention of shipowners, managers and operators of Singapore-registered ships to IMO circulars, MSC.1/Circ. 1190 (Annex A) and MSC/Circ.1155 (Annex B), which provide additional guidance on specific aspects of the measures to enhance maritime security. Annex A guidance to the provision of information for identifying ships when transmitting ship security alerts and Annex B guidance relates to message priority and the testing of SSAS.

7   Shipowners and managers are advised to ensure that the SSA equipment on board their ships is configured to be capable of delivering the information in para 8(b). This is to enable the recipient of the SSA to clearly identify the ship which transmitted the alert. The testing of the SSA equipment on their ships is to be carried out when there is a transfer of flag.

8   The following are guidelines on the correct procedure for testing of SSAS for Singapore-registered ships:

a) The procedures for testing the SSAS should be in accordance with MSC/Circ.1155. The frequency of SSAS alert testing involving MPA should not exceed more than once a year and should coincide with the annual safety radio survey.

b) Your attention is also drawn to IMO circular, MSC.1/Circ. 1190 (para 3 of Annex A) which provides guidance on the provision of information for identifying ships when transmitting SSAS alert messages:
    .1. Name of ship;
    .2. IMO Ship identification number;
    .3. Call Sign;
    .4. Maritime Mobile Service Identity;
    .5.Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) position (latitude and longitude) of the ship; and
    .6. Date and time of the GNSS position.

c) As stated in paragraph 4 of Part II of the Annex of MSC/Circ.1155, companies and ships are to ensure that when testing the SSAS with the flag state, they should notify the flag state - not more than 2 days in advance and not less than 4 hours prior to the test - by sending a pre-test notification email to Shipalert@mpa.gov.sg. This is to enable effective tracking of notifications and to ensure that the system does not inadvertently lead to unintended emergency response actions.

d) In the event of a test, the SSAS alert test message should be configured to have the word "TEST" either in the message or in the subject heading. This is to ensure that the testing of the SSAS does not inadvertently lead to

unintended emergency response actions. The alert message is to be configured back to the original wordings after the test is completed.

e) In instances where the SSAS equipment is verified to be faulty and continue to transmit repeated false alerts, the designated CSO shall notify flag state via email to Shipalert@mpa.gov.sg and make relevant arrangements with shore maintenance staff to rectify the technical fault as soon as practically possible. The CSO is also obligated to notify the flag state when the SSAS equipment has been restored to normal operation via the same email address above.

f) Shipowners, managers and operators shall ensure that internal corresponding emails should not be forwarded or cc-listed to Shipalert@mpa.gov.sg. This designated email (Shipalert@mpa.gov.sg) shall only be receiving pre-test alert notifications and SSAS activation messages

9   Testing of SSAS units are to ensure the following requirements are verified:
a) The equipment is fully functional
b) The SSAS alert is sent and received by the correct and relevant addresses, including Shipalert@mpa.gov.sg

10   If shipowners, managers and operators would like a response from MPA on the SSAS testing, kindly state within the notification email to Shipalert@mpa.gov.sg to request for MPA's response when the SSAS alert test email is received. MPA staff will then contact the CSO of the vessel upon receipt of the alert test email. If MPA receives a second alert on the same day, outside the stipulated test time, we will follow the normal procedure and verify with the ship or the CSO if it is a true alert.

11   It is understood that some service providers relating to the shipboard SSAS are providing reports on vessel location positions and other data on a regular basis to the CSO and companies as an automatic update. It should be noted that MPA need not be included as a recipient for such information.

12   Notwithstanding the above, shipowners, managers and crew of Singapore ships are reminded that in the event a false alert is inadvertently transmitted, expeditious actions should be made to ensure that all concerned parties are made aware that the alert is false and that no emergency actions are initiated. Blatant negligent actions causing false alerts may result in penalties.

13   The direct telephone relating to SSAS test alerts and SSAS activation would be **(65) 6226 5539**. Please note that this number is also dedicated for emergency purposes.

14   Any queries relating to this shipping circular should be directed to the Ship Registry dedicated contact via email: marine@mpa.gov.sg and tel: (65) 6375 1932.

TAN SUAN JOW
DIRECTOR OF MARINE
MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

Annex A – MSC.1/Circ.1190
Annex B - MSC/Circ.1155