# ST KITTS & NEVIS INTERNATIONAL SHIP REGISTRY

# MARITIME CIRCULAR – MC 145 25 (Rev.1)

IMPLEMENTATION OF IRIDIUM GMDSS TERMINAL ACCEPTANCE AND REGISTRATION

## 1. Purpose

1.1. The purpose of this Marine Circular is to introduce and mandate the use of Iridium GMDSS terminals for vessels registered under the Saint Kitts & Nevis flag. This updated policy replaces all previous versions and is to be used with immediate effect for all Flag State Inspections conducted on vessels registered under the St. Kitts & Nevis flag.

## 2. Background

2.1. Following a comprehensive review of inspection practices and the need to align with international regulatory standards (IMO, ILO, MARPOL, SOLAS, ISM, ISPS, MLC), the Administration has recognized Iridium as a Recognized Mobile Satellite Service (RMSS) provider for Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) services and the dissemination of Maritime Safety Information (MSI).

## 3. Key Updates and Requirements

3.1. The new policy includes:

- **Recognition of Iridium**: The Administration recognizes Iridium as a Recognized Mobile Satellite Service provider for GMDSS services and the dissemination of Maritime Safety Information.
- **Use of Iridium GMDSS Terminals**: Iridium GMDSS approved terminals may be installed on vessels to comply with SOLAS Chapter IV requirements concerning GMDSS and MSI. These terminals can be used as both primary and backup terminals.
- **Recommendation for Sea Area 4**: For vessels navigating in Sea Area 4, the Administration highly recommends activating Iridium GMDSS approved terminals, provided a primary station is equipped with an MF/HF installation featuring Digital Selective Calling (DSC) and optionally Narrow-Band Direct Printing (NBDP).
- **Activation and Registration Process**:
    - Iridium has designated multiple communication companies worldwide as official GMDSS service providers. The administration authorizes these providers to activate Iridium GMDSS approved terminals on its vessels.

- Vessel owners are responsible for selecting a local Iridium GMDSS provider to install an Iridium GMDSS approved terminal.
- Iridium GMDSS approved terminals installed on St. Kitts & Nevis flagged vessels must be activated and, when necessary, deactivated by an authorized Iridium GMDSS service provider.
- Any Iridium GMDSS approved terminal installed aboard a St. Kitts & Nevis flagged ship must be reported to this administration in accordance with International Telecommunication Union (ITU) regulations to amend the vessel's radio station license, verify compliance with SOLAS Chapter IV requirements, and include the terminal in the administration's database.

## 4. Implementation and Compliance

4.1. All vessels registered under the Saint Kitts & Nevis flag are required to adhere to the updated Iridium GMDSS terminal policy for all future inspections. It is crucial that all parties involved ensure that their vessels are prepared for inspections and that all necessary documents and equipment are up to date.

If you have any questions, please contact this office at enquiries@skanregistry.com

Yours truly,

Graeme Morkel
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