Regulations of 11 November 1991 No. 731 concerning Radiocommunication on Passenger Ships


§ 1

Scope of application

(1) These Regulations shall apply to Norwegian ships, with the specifications referred to in the second to fifth paragraphs.

(2) These Regulations shall apply to passenger ships and high-speed passenger craft.

(3) For passenger ships with a length (L) of 24 metres or above, constructed before 1 May 2000, these Regulations shall apply until the upgrade dates laid down in the third paragraph (d) of § 8 of the Regulation of 28 March 2000 No. 305 concerning surveys, construction and equipment of passenger ships engaged on domestic voyages.

(4) When replacing, altering, etc. life-saving appliances on existing ships, the provisions of SOLAS Regulation III/1.4.2 shall be complied with.

(5) These Regulations shall not apply to:

a) High-speed passenger craft covered by the Regulation of 5 January 1998 No. 6 concerning the Construction, Equipment and Operation of High-Speed Craft used as Passenger Craft or Cargo Craft.

b) Passenger ships constructed after 1 May 2000 which can carry up to 12 passengers.

c) Fishing vessels or pleasure craft.

Amended by Regulations of 29 June 2005 No. 727 (in force on 1 July 2005) and 29 June 2007 No. 1006 (in force on 1 July 2007).
§ 2  
Definitions

For the purpose of these regulations, the following definitions shall apply:

a) **Date of construction**: The date on which a ship’s keel is laid or the ship is at a similar stage of construction.

b) **Trade area**: A specified area in which a vessel is permitted to operate as provided in the regulations currently in force concerning trade areas.

c) **Fishing vessel**: Any vessel used commercially for catching fish, whales, seals or other living resources of the sea, including seaweed and sea tangle or other living resources of the sea.

d) **Pleasure craft**: Any floating device intended for and capable of movement on water and not used for commercial purposes.

e) **Port**: A port where it is possible to seek shelter and where the passengers can go ashore via a quay.

f) **High-speed craft**: A ship to which the definition for «Dynamically Supported Craft» in IMO Res. A.373 (X) applies.

g) **Non-convention ships**: Ships to which Chapter IV of the SOLAS Convention does not apply.

h) **International voyage**: The expression, as used in the SOLAS Convention, corresponds to the trade area «great coasting» and beyond.

i) **Convention ships**: Ships to which Chapter IV of the SOLAS Convention applies.

j) **Cargo ship**: Any ship which is not a passenger ship, fishing vessel, lighter or pleasure craft.

k) **Lighter**: A hull or ship without propulsion machinery which must be moved by towing or pushing, used for cargo transport.

l) **Passenger ship**: A ship that can carry more than 12 passengers or which is required to have official permission to carry passengers.

m) **SOLAS Convention**: International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS 74), as amended.


§ 3  
Duties

The company, master and other persons working on board shall perform their duties in accordance with the Ship Safety and Security Act and the supplementary provisions laid down in these Regulations.

Amended by Regulation of 29 June 2007 No. 1006 (in force on 1 July 2007).

§ 4  
Exemptions

The Norwegian Maritime Directorate may, in individual cases and upon written application, grant exemption from the requirements of these regulations. There must be special reasons that make the exemption necessary and it must be justifiable in terms of safety. Exemptions can only be granted where they do not contravene international agreements to which Norway has acceded.

§ 5  
Survey and issuance of certificates

(1) For convention ships, the provisions in Chapter I, part B of the SOLAS Convention, as amended by the 1988 Protocol to SOLAS 74, shall apply.¹

(2) For non-convention ships, the same provisions for surveys, types of certificates, duration of validity, etc. shall apply as specified in Chapter I, part B of the SOLAS Convention, with the following amendments:

a) For all non-convention ships required under these regulations to carry radio equipment, a Radiotelephone Safety Certificate will be issued in lieu of the certificates specified in the SOLAS Convention.

b) For passenger ships in trade area 3 (voyage in sheltered waters where the unsheltered stretches do not exceed five nautical miles), the Norwegian Maritime Directorate or whoever is authorized by the Directorate may issue a Radiotelephone Safety Certificate valid for three years. These certificates will be valid provided that the Norwegian Maritime Directorate or whoever is authorized by the Directorate carries out annual function checks and, where necessary, technical checks of the radio equipment, making an endorsement on the Radiotelephone Safety Certificate verifying that these checks have been completed.

Amended by Regulation of 24 January 1995 No. 157 to the Regulations of 15 June 1987 No. 506 concerning survey for the issue of certificates to passenger ships, cargo ships and lighters and concerning other surveys, etc.

¹ Ref. amendments of 24 January 1995 No. 157 to the Regulations of 15 June 1987 No. 506 concerning survey for the issue of certificates to passenger ships, cargo ships and lighters and concerning other surveys, etc.
§ 8
Requirements for non-convention ships

(1) All non-convention ships in trade areas larger than trade on lakes and rivers shall be equipped with a VHF radiotelephone installation which complies with the provisions set forth in Regulation IV/17 of the SOLAS Convention. Ships which in accordance with this provision are equipped with a VHF installation, shall also comply with the provisions set forth in Regulation IV/8 of the SOLAS Convention concerning watches for VHF radiotelephone installations.

(2) All passenger ships in small coasting shall also be equipped with maritime VHF equipment in addition to the requirements of the first paragraph. The additional VHF equipment may be fixed or portable.

(3) All non-convention ships in larger trade areas than great coasting shall also be equipped with an MF radiotelephone installation which complies with the provisions set forth in Regulations IV/15 and IV/16 of the SOLAS Convention. Ships which in accordance with this provision are equipped with an MF installation shall also comply with the provisions concerning watchkeeping and radiotelephone operator(s) set forth in Regulation IV/7 of the SOLAS Convention.

(4) All non-convention ships in larger trade areas than European trade shall also be equipped with a short-wave radiotelephone installation. The short-wave installation may be combined with the MF station prescribed by the third paragraph. Ships in trade areas entirely within the range of the INMARSAT system may acquire an INMARSAT ship-earth station instead of a shortwave installation.

(5) All ships with arrangements for helicopter operations shall also comply with the requirements in § 10.

(6) All cargo ships in small coasting and larger trade areas and passenger ships in service in sheltered waters where unsheltered stretches may exceed five nautical miles (trade area 4) and larger trade areas shall also be equipped with a float-free emergency position-indicating beacon which complies with the requirements in § 9.

(7) Ships which under the provisions of Regulations of 15 June 1987 No. 506 concerning survey for the issue of certificates to passenger ships, cargo ships and lighters, and concerning other surveys, etc. are issued with a Trading Permit for the Carriage of Passengers shall, when operating in accordance with the trading permit and carrying passengers, be equipped with fixed radio equipment as required for cargo ships operating in the same trade area. When the trading permit is to be used in trade areas where the distance to the nearest port is more than five nautical miles, the ship shall also be equipped with an approved float-free emergency position-indicating beacon which complies with the requirement in § 9, or a manual EPIRB fitted in the wheelhouse.

(8) Ships which under the provisions of Regulations of 15 June 1987 No. 506 concerning survey for the issue of certificates to passenger ships, cargo ships and lighters, and concerning other surveys, etc. are issued with a Trading Permit for the Restricted Carriage of Passengers shall be equipped with maritime VHF radiotelephone equipment. Vessels used in trade areas where the distance to the nearest port is more than five nautical miles, shall also be equipped with an approved free-floating emergency position-indicating beacon which complies with the requirements in § 9, or a manual EPIRB fitted in the wheelhouse.

(9) All non-convention ships which under these regulations are required to be provided with radio equipment shall keep radio records in accordance with the provisions in Regulation IV/19 of the SOLAS Convention.

§ 9
Requirements related to float-free emergency position-indicating beacons

(1) On ships which according to the provisions of these regulations are required to carry float-free emergency position-indicating beacons, this equipment shall comply with the following requirements:

a) For ships constructed after 1 January 1992, the EPIRB shall operate on 406 MHz. On ships built before 1 January 1992, the float-free emergency position-indicating beacon shall operate on 406 MHz or 121.5/243 MHz.

b) The emergency position-indicating beacon shall be fitted as above-deck equipment so that the equipment is most likely to be released and to float to the surface in the event of the ship sinking. Its location shall also allow easy access to the equipment for manual release and activation.
§ 10

Additional requirements for ships with arrangements for helicopter operations

(1) Communication with the helicopter shall be conducted from the ship’s wheelhouse/bridge or from the ship’s radio station. The radio officer shall be a certified radiotelephone operator.

(2) In addition, three-way communication shall be possible between the helicopter, helicopter deck watch and radio operator. A hand-held VHF radio with headset shall be provided for the helicopter deck watch.

(3) Communication between helicopter and ship shall be conducted on maritime VHF, unless a licence has been issued by the Norwegian Post and Telecommunications Authority permitting the use of aeromobile VHF equipment for this purpose.

§ 11

Maintenance of equipment

All radio equipment required herein shall at all times be kept in good working order.

§ 11A

Approval of equipment

Equipment covered by Regulations of 29 December 1998 No. 1455 concerning marine equipment (Marine Equipment Regulations) shall be type-approved by a Notified Body and marked in accordance with the said Regulations.

Added by Regulation of 29 December 1998 No. 1458 (effective from 1 January 1999).

§ 12

Entry into force

These regulations enter into force on 1 January 1992. As from the same date, Regulations of 30 June 1987 No. 562 relating to radiotelegraphy and radiotelephony and Regulations of 22 August 1984 No. 1568 concerning radiotelegraphy and radiotelephony are repealed.