Regulations of 27 January 1999 No. 149 concerning radio installations and radio services on passenger ships and cargo ships to which the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS 1974) applies

Chapter I
Introductory provisions

§ 1
Scope of application
These regulations apply to the following Norwegian ships:

a) new and existing passenger ships, irrespective of size, engaged on international voyages;
b) cargo ships of 300 gross tonnage and upwards engaged on international voyages; and
c) high-speed craft used as passenger craft or cargo craft on international voyages which are not covered by the Regulations of 5 January 1998 No. 6 concerning the construction, equipment and operation of high-speed craft used as passenger craft or cargo craft (the High-Speed Craft Regulations).

§ 2
Definitions
For the purpose of these regulations, the following definitions shall apply:

a) *Gross tonnage*: The number entered as gross tonnage in the Tonnage Certificate. If safety tonnage is entered in the remarks column of the Tonnage Certificate, this tonnage shall be used as gross tonnage in respect of the requirements for radio installations and safety radio certificates.
b) *Existing ship*: A ship which is not a new ship.
c) *Float-free satellite EPIRB*: An emergency position-indicating radio beacon with automatic release operating in either the 406 MHz band in the Cospas Sarsat system, or in the 1.6 GHz band in the Inmarsat system.
e) *GOC (GMDSS)*: General Operator’s Certificate in the GMDSS.
f) *High-Speed Craft*: A craft for which a safety certificate for high speed craft is required under the provisions in force, or a craft which has a Dynamically Supported Craft Construction and Equipment Certificate in accordance with IMO Resolution A.373(X).
g) *IMO*: International Maritime Organization.
h) *Convention ship*: A ship to which Chapter IV of the SOLAS Convention applies.
i) *Cargo ship*: Any ship that is not a passenger ship, fishing vessel, lighter or pleasure craft.
j) *Lighter*: A hull or ship without propulsion machinery which is towed or pushed for all moves, and which is used for carrying cargo.
k) *New ship*: A ship the keel of which is laid or which is at a similar stage of construction on or after the date of the entry into force of these regulations.
l) *Passenger ship*: A ship that can carry more than 12 passenger or which is required to have official permission to carry passengers.
n) *Radio services*: watchkeeping and technical maintenance and repairs carried out pursuant to the International Radio Regulations, the Safety at Sea Convention (SOLAS-1974) and relevant, updated recommendations of the IMO.
o) *ROC (GMDSS)*: Restricted Operator’s Certificate in the GMDSS.

Amended by Regulations of 8 December 2003 No. 1742, 1 June 2004 No. 817 and 29 June 2007 No. 1006 (in force on 1 July 2007).
Chapter II
General provisions

§ 3
Duties

(1) The shipping 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.

(2) The ship’s master shall ensure that the ship, when at sea, is capable at any time of maintaining a qualified radio watch as prescribed by § 12 and fulfilling all functional requirements as prescribed by regulation IV/4 of the SOLAS Convention.

(3) The officer in charge of the navigational watch shall ensure that the radio equipment is functioning in accordance with the provisions of the STCW Code, Part A, Chapter VIII, section A-VIII/2, paragraph 34.5.

(4) The radio operator shall keep a radio watch in accordance with the provisions of the STCW Code, Part A, Chapter VIII, section A-VIII/2, paragraph 86.

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 this regulation. 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.

Chapter III
Convention requirements and codes

§ 5
Conventions

With the additions and interpretations set out in these regulations, the provisions of Chapter I of the SOLAS Convention, as amended by the 1988 Protocol, and Chapter IV of the SOLAS Convention, and the provisions of the STCW Convention relating to radio communications and radio personnel, shall apply.

§ 6
Codes

The provisions of the STCW Code, Part A, Chapter IV relating to radio communications and radio personnel, and the relevant provisions of the STCW Code, Part A, Chapter VIII relating to watchkeeping, shall apply.

Chapter IV
Requirements for certificates/permits, etc.

§ 7
Radio surveys

(1) Inspections and surveys shall be carried out in compliance with the provisions of the SOLAS Convention, Chapter I, Part B. The provisions of the SOLAS Convention, Chapter I, Part B, as amended by the 1988 Protocol, shall be complied with.

(2) For cargo ships of 300 gross tonnage and upwards but less than 500, radio surveys shall be carried out in connection with the survey for the issue of trade certificate, ref. 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. (the Survey Regulations).
(3) Requests for radio survey shall be submitted to the Norwegian Maritime Directorate or to anyone authorized by 
the Norwegian Maritime Directorate.

(4) Radio surveys are carried out by the Norwegian Maritime Directorate or by anyone authorized by the 
Norwegian Maritime Directorate.

§ 8
Certification

(1) The provisions of the SOLAS Convention, Chapter I, Part B, as amended by the 1988 Protocol, shall be 
 complied with.

(2) The Norwegian Maritime Directorate or anyone authorized by the Norwegian Maritime Directorate shall issue, 
renew and endorse safety radio certificates and appurtenant records of equipment.

(3) Ships to which these regulations apply shall have a valid radio licence for the installation and operation of radio 
equipment on board in accordance with the licence regulations\(^1\) in force at the time in question before a relevant safety 
certificate can be issued.

\(^1\) Laid down by the Norwegian Post and Telecommunications Authority.

§ 9
Drawings

(1) A new ship, and ships undergoing modifications which entail considerable alterations in respect of the location 
of radio equipment and antennas, shall submit drawings and other documentation in triplicate to the Norwegian 
Maritime Directorate or to anyone authorized by the Norwegian Maritime Directorate.

(2) Drawings as mentioned in the first paragraph above shall be in a scale sufficient to consider distances, both 
vertically and horizontally, and shall show:
   a) the planned location of all antennas, viewed from the fore or aft position, the starboard or port position and 
      from above;
   b) the planned location of each piece of radio equipment;
   c) the connection of the radio equipment to the main, emergency and reserve sources of energy; and
   d) the location of fuses.

Chapter V
Functional requirements, radio installations, etc.

§ 10
Functional requirements
The provisions of regulation IV/4 of the SOLAS Convention shall apply.

§ 11
Radio installations

(1) The provisions of regulation IV/6 of the SOLAS Convention shall apply.

(2) Cargo ships shall update the ship’s position at least every four hours in all distress alert equipment. This 
requirement may be fulfilled by means of equipment capable of being automatically updated.

(3) Any radio equipment forming part of radio installations shall comply with the provisions of the regulations in 
force at the time in question concerning the approval of marine radio equip-ment.\(^1\)

\(^1\) Laid down by the Norwegian Post and Telecommunications Authority.

§ 12
Watches

(1) The provisions on radio watches contained in regulation IV/12 of the SOLAS Convention shall apply. In 
addition, a listening watch on VHF channel 16, as required by regulation IV/12.3 of the SOLAS Convention, shall be 
maintained until 1 February 2005.

(2) The provisions of paragraphs 34.5, 40.7, and 84 to 89 in section A-VIII/2 of the STCW Code, Part A, Chapter 
VIII shall be complied with.
§ 13  
Sources of energy  
The provisions of regulation IV/13 of the SOLAS Convention shall apply.

§ 14  
Performance standards  
The provisions of regulation IV/14 of the SOLAS Convention shall apply.

§ 15  
Maintenance requirements  
The provisions of regulation IV/15 of the SOLAS Convention shall apply. In addition, float-free emergency position-indicating radio beacons (EPIRBs) shall be subject to periodical maintenance in accordance with the regulations in force at the time in question concerning the conditions for periodical maintenance of float-free emergency position-indicating radio beacons.1

Amended by regulation of 1 June 2004 No. 817.  
1 Laid down by the Norwegian Maritime Directorate.

§ 16  
Radio personnel  
(1) The provisions of regulation IV/16 of the SOLAS Convention shall apply. Radio personnel shall be qualified in accordance with the STCW Convention, Chapter IV and the STCW Code, Part A, Chapter IV. Radio records1 shall be kept as provided in the regulation concerning the form and keeping of log books for ships and mobile offshore units.

(2) All navigators in charge of a navigational watch and other personnel operating a VHF radio telephone for navigational safety purposes, shall as a minimum hold a Restricted Operator’s Certificate (ROC/GMDSS).

(3) Radio personnel shall as a minimum hold the following radio certificates:  
a) Restricted Operator’s Certificate (ROC/GMDSS) for the operation of radio equipment for Sea Area A1, and  
b) General Operator’s Certificate (GOC/GMDSS) for the operation of radio equipment for Sea Areas A2, A3 or A4.

(4) Requirements for radio personnel on passenger ships:  
a) All officers in charge of a navigational watch shall be qualified for distress and safety radiocommunication purposes and hold an operator’s certificate as mentioned in the third paragraph above, if the ship has no radio personnel in separate positions.  
b) The muster list shall identify the qualified navigator(s) in charge of a navigational watch or radio personnel in separate positions that are assigned to perform only radio-communication duties during distress incidents, in accordance with regulation IV/16.2 of the SOLAS Convention.

(5) Requirements for radio personnel on cargo ships:  
a) At least two of the officers in charge of a navigational watch shall be qualified for distress and safety radiocommunication purposes and hold an operator’s certificate as mentioned in the third paragraph above, if the ship has no radio personnel in separate positions.  
b) Ships with radio equipment for sea areas A2, A3 or A4 where only one of the officers in charge of a navigational watch or only one radio operator in a separate position is qualified for distress and safety radiocommunications by the entry into force of these regulations, shall fulfil the requirements of subparagraph a) above by 31 December 1999 at the latest.  
c) The muster list shall identify the qualified navigators in charge of a navigational watch or radio personnel in separate positions that have primary responsibility for radiocommunications during distress incidents, in accordance with regulation IV/16.1 of the SOLAS Convention.

Amended by Regulation of 30 June 2003 No. 916 (effective from 1 July 2003).  
1 See Regulation of 15 September 1992 No. 693 concerning the form and keeping of log books for ships and mobile offshore units, § 14 and § 19.
Chapter VI
Concluding provisions

§ 17
Entry into force

These regulations enter into force on 1 February 1999. Amended by Regulation of 30 June 2003 No. 916 (effective from 1 July 2003, formerly § 19).