

Ship Equipment Carriage Requirements

As per GMDSS the equipment to be carried by a ship should be determined by its area of operation rather than by its size. The GMDSS regulations apply on a compulsory basis to commercial ships of 300 GT (when travelling on international voyages) or, if less than 300 GT, ships that carry 12 or more passengers. Recreational vessels do not need to comply with GMDSS radio carriage requirements.

Sea Area	Distance	Radio	Frequencies	EPIRBs	Survival Craft
A1: Within range of at least one VHF Coast Station in which continuous DSC alerting is available.	Depends on antenna height at shore-based VHF station, around 20-50 nautical miles	VHF	156.525 MHz (Ch 70) for DSC, 156.8 MHz (Ch 16) RT	406 MHz Cospas-Sarsat	9 GHz radar transponder (SART); VHF portable radio (Ch 16 and one other frequency)
A2: An area excluding Sea Area A1, with the radiotelephone range of at least one MF Coast Station in which continuous DSC alerting is available.	About 50-250 nautical miles	MF VHF	As above, plus, 2187.5 kHz DSC, 2182 kHz RT, 2174.5 kHz NBDP, 518 kHz NAVTEX	406 MHz Cospas-Sarsat	as above
A3: An area excluding Sea Areas A1 and A2 within the coverage of a geostationary Inmarsat satellite in which continuous DSC alerting is available.	In the range of: 76° N-76° S	HF or Satellite MF VHF	As above, plus 1.5-1.6 GHz alerting or as A1 and A2 plus all HF frequencies	406 MHz Cospas-Sarsat	as above
A4: An area outside Sea Areas A1, A2, and A3.	North of approximately 76° N or South of approximately 76° S	HF MF VHF		406 MHz Cospas-Sarsat	as above

All ships operating in areas where Navtex service is provided will carry a Navtex receiver.