

**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR  
NO. 01-01-02**

**SUBJECT: Mandatory installation of NAVTEX receiver and satellite EPIRB as additional Navigational Aids Equipment of Ship Radio Stations engaged in coastwise trade.**

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Pursuant to the provisions of the 1974 International Convention on Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and its amendments; and relevant Philippine radiocommunications laws, rules and regulations on maritime communication, specifically that of Department Orders 2001-46 and 2001-47, the National Communications Commission (NTC) hereby promulgates the following rules and guidelines in the installation of NAVTEX receiver and EPIRB navigational aids, to wit:

**I. DEFINITION OF TERMS**

- 1.1 Global Positioning System (GPS) – A satellite-aided measurement system that enables a ship to locate its position anytime, anywhere expressed in degrees and minutes of latitude and longitude.
- 1.2 NAVTEX – is a system for the broadcast and automatic reception of maritime safety information such as but not limited to navigational/meteorological warnings, search and rescue information, urgent information by means of narrow band direct printing telegraphy.
- 1.3 Satellite Emergency Positioning Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) – an earth station in the mobile-satellite service, the emissions of which are intended to facilitate search and rescue operations. A radio beacon when activated transmits the geographical coordinates of the unit in distress expressed in degrees and minutes of latitude and longitude intended to be received by the COSPAS-SARSAT System.
- 1.4 COSPAS-SARSAT System – A satellite-aided search and rescue system for locating distress vessels by the use of low-altitude near polar-orbiting satellites and designed to locate distress satellite EPIRB beacons.

**II. SCOPE/COVERAGE**

The following vessels/ships are required to be equipped with the NAVTEX Receiver and Satellite EPIRB navigational equipments

- 2.1 Passenger and General Cargo Vessels 150 Gross Tonnage and above;
- 2.2 Tankers and High Speed Crafts;
- 2.3 Fishing Vessels 75 Gross Tonnage and above; and
- 2.4 Tugboats Pushing Pulling Barges

### **III. LICENSING REQUIREMENTS**

All navigational aids equipment must be duly licensed by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) in compliance with existing maritime radio laws, rules and regulations and this Circular.

### **IV. DATE OF MANDATORY COMPLIANCE**

All vessels/ships referred to in No. II of this circular is mandated to comply with the installation and the maintenance at all times of a NAVTEX Receiver and Satellite EPIRB navigational equipment, commencing from the hereunder-specified dates:

- 4.1 Installation of the Satellite EPIRB – on or before 30 June 2002;
- 4.2 Installation of the NAVTEX Receiver – on or before 30 September 2002.

No extension of the period shall be granted. Non-compliance with this mandatory date requirement shall subject the owner of ship/vessel to administrative and penal sanctions, in accordance with law.

### **V. ADMINISTRATIVE AND PENAL SANCTIONS**

Non-compliance and/or violation of any of the provision of this Circular and other laws, rules and regulations of this Commission shall subject the violator/respondent to the imposition of appropriate administrative and penal sanctions, in accordance with law.

### **VI. REPEALING CLAUSE**

This supersedes any and all existing Orders, Circulars, Memoranda or any part thereof inconsistent herewith.

### **VII. EFFECTIVITY**

This circular takes effect fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation and three (3) certified copies furnished the UP Law Center.

14 January 2002, Quezon City, Philippines

**(SGD.) ELISEO M. RIO JR.**  
Commissioner

**(SGD.) KATHLEEN G. HECETA**  
Deputy Commissioner

**(SGD.) ARMI JANE R. BORJE**  
Deputy Commissioner