

GMDSS

Emergency communication



GMDSS - Global Maritime Distress System is an international accepted standard with the purpose to ensure sufficient emergency communication on board installations and vessels at sea. GMDSS states what kind of equipment needs to be installed, depending on what trading areas are relevant.

GMDSS BASICS

Regulations apply to all ships over 300 gross tonnage, and vary according to trading area.

Ocean trading areas:

- A1 Sea-areas within reach of an on-shore official VHF station.
- A2 Sea-areas within reach of an on-shore official MF station
- A3 Sea-areas within reach of Inmarsat
- A4 Other areas (polar areas)

Typical GMDSS systems

There are pre-defined regulations for what type of equipment is needed depending on relevant trading area.

- VHF/DSC radio
- MF/HF/DSC radio
- NAVTEX
- EPIRB
- SART
- INMARSAT
- Backup power

Suppliers

All GMDSS equipment needs to be wheel marked. The two main suppliers are Furuno and Thrane & Thrane. WestCom is an approved dealer of the latter, and the products may be browsed at www.thrane.com/maritime/products/gmdss%20solutions.aspx.

Regulations

- Operators must be in possession of a valid GOC/ROC-certificate.
- Vessel needs to have an on-board plan for handling technical issues.
- Batteries need to be changed on a regular basis.
- GMDSS equipment is subject to annual surveys.
- **WestCom offers Shore Based Maintenance Agreements and issues Certificate valid for survey.**

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OTHER WESTCOM PRODUCTS:



FRX ATEX radio repeater



Motorbo digital radio systems



Quiet Pro intelligent communication headset



Analog/Digital Crossband radio link



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