

Commonwealth of Dominica



Office of the Maritime Administrator

TO: SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS, OFFICERS, RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS AND MARINE SURVEYORS AND INSPECTORS

SUBJECT: The Use of Voyage Data Recorders and Simplified Voyage Data Recorders for Assisting a Marine Safety Investigation

REFERENCE: (a) Marine Accident Investigator's International Forum Advisory 01/2014

APPLICABILITY: This Marine Safety Circular is applicable to any company and vessel which is required to have installed a VDR or SVDR or which has done so voluntarily.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Circular is to bring to the attention of all concerned the information provided by the Marine Accident Investigator's International Forum and the subsequent requests made to Flag States and other interested or associated parties.

BACKGROUND:

At the 22nd meeting of the Marine Accident Investigator's International Forum (MAIIF) in October 2013, concerns were expressed at the number of reliability and operational issues being encountered with Voyage Data Recorders (VDRs) and Simplified Voyage Data Recorders (SVDRs). A number of these issues were identified and the Forum has provided information urging ship operators, Flag States and Authorized Representatives to consider the outcome of this meeting to enhance future safety investigations.

REQUIREMENTS:

General

1. Following the forum and meeting regarding the operational and reliability issues that have been identified following a number of VDR and SVDR interrogations, MAIIF has the following of all shipowners and Authorized Representatives (such as ROs):
 - a. Ensure that ship's Safety Management Systems include VDR operating instructions within their emergency response procedures;
 - b. Carry out regular inspections between Flag State or RO audits and surveys, to ensure that VDRs/SVDRs are properly functioning;
 - c. Implement training and drills to ensure that bridge teams are familiar with the use of the VDR or SVDR;
 - d. Ensure that each vessel is equipped with the appropriate VDR/SVDR technical documentation; and
 - e. Ensure that each vessel is equipped with appropriate playback software.

Annexed to this Circular is the Advisory containing the detailed information and guidance for owners and operators to help facilitate the effective use and retrieval of information relating to VDRs/SVDR.

Applicability

- 1 This Marine Safety Circular is applicable to any company and vessel which is required to have installed a VDR or SVDR or which has done so voluntarily.

Required Action by Owners/Operators

- 1 Owners and operators are advised to take the requests and information provided by the Marine Accident Investigator's International Forum into consideration when reviewing, revising or amending their Safety Management Systems.

- 2** Owners and operators are also urged to ensure that their VDRs or SVDRs are fully compliant with applicable requirements and that their crew are familiar with the use of this equipment.

Any questions can be directed to:

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