

**[ NTC MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 4-3-2000,  
March 01, 2000 ]**

**GUIDELINES ON THE CONFIGURATION OF THE RESERVE SOURCE  
OR SOURCES OF ENERGY USED TO SUPPLY RADIO  
INSTALLATIONS ON GMDSS SHIPS**

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3346, R.A. 3396 and the requirements set out in Regulation 4/13/ of the 1974 Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention, as amended, concerning the reserve source or sources of energy used to supply radio installations on GMDSS ships should meet the following requirements:

1. There shall be available at all times, while the ship is at sea, a supply of electrical energy sufficient to operate the radio installations and to charge any batteries used as part of a reserve source or sources of energy for the radio installations.
2. A reserve source or sources of energy shall be provided on every ship, to supply radio installations, for the purpose of conducting distress and safety radio communications, in the event of failure of the ship's main and emergency sources of electrical power. The reserve source or sources of energy shall be capable of simultaneously operating the VHF radio installation, either MF radio installation, MF/HF radio installation, or the INMARSAT ship earth station for a period of at least:
  - a. One (1) hour, on ships constructed on after 1 February 1995;
  - b. One (1) hour, on ships constructed before February 1995, if a self-contained emergency source of electrical power is provided; and
  - c. six (6) hours, on ships constructed before 1 February 1995, if a self-contained emergency of source of electrical power is not provided.

The reserve source or sources of energy need not supply independent HF and MF radio installations HF and MF radio installations at the same time.

3. The reserve source or sources of energy shall be independent of the propelling power of the ship and the ship's electrical system.
4. The reserve source or sources of energy may be used to supply the electrical lighting required to illuminate the radio controls for operating all the radio installations.
5. Where a reserve source of energy consists of a rechargeable accumulator battery or batteries (Annex-A \*):
  - a. means of automatically charging such batteries shall be provided which shall be capable of recharging them to minimum capacity requirements within 10 hours; and