

CIRCULAR No 65

PORTUGUESE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT | Closure of Inmarsat Fleet 77 Services

To | Shipowners, Companies, Operators, Recognized Organizations, Shore Based Maintenance Entities, Surveyors, Masters and Skippers of Portuguese flagged vessels

DISCLAIMER | This document is for information only and is not intended to interpret or replace the legal referenced documents published by official sources

INTRODUCTION

Inmarsat Fleet 77 is an integrated satellite communication service incorporating voice and data applications. It is a Global Maritime Distress and Safety System compliant service that integrates satellite communication services providing voice communications, though it is not mandatory under the carriage requirements of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974 (SOLAS).

In the 2015 meeting on the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue¹ of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), which was held in London between 9 and 13 March, the International Mobile Satellite Organization² (IMSO) informed of the scheduled closure of the Inmarsat Fleet 77 service by 1 December 2020³.

1. OBJECTIVE

The main objective of this circular is to draw the attention of owners of Portuguese Flagged ships and all concerned parties of the upcoming closure of Inmarsat Fleet 77 service scheduled to happen on 1 December 2020. All terminals associated with the retired service will be deactivated on the network and the service will no longer be available to customers.

¹ NCSR 3/19/1 - Future cessation of Inmarsat Fleet F77 service;

² NCSR 7/14/2 - DEVELOPMENTS IN GMDSS SATELLITE SERVICES- Analysis and assessment of the GMDSS performance of Inmarsat Global Limited.

³ Date subject to change for operational reasons. (<https://www.inmarsat.com/closure-of-fleet-77-and-swift-64-services>)

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2. REPLACEMENT OF FLEET 77 EQUIPMENT

While not being mandatory under the GMDSS requirements of SOLAS, the Portuguese Maritime Administration has accepted and agreed with the use of Fleet 77 on vessels as meeting part of the carriage requirement of SOLAS/IV Radiocommunications.

Inmarsat Fleet 77 Ship Earth Stations (SES) still in use on board Portuguese flagged ships will need to be replaced before 1 December 2020 to meet statutory compliance with the applicable GMDSS requirements. As normal service fees and charges will only continue to apply while any terminal is active on the network and the respective service is in use, taking in due consideration that Fleet 77 GMDSS for voice communication will remain available until the end-of-life date. Replacement arrangements should ensure that any new equipment should preferably be installed, surveyed and reflected on Certification prior 1 December 2020.

The closure of the Inmarsat Fleet 77 service will not affect Inmarsat-C service, only the operation of Inmarsat Fleet 77 SES.

Information and updates on the service closure are available from Inmarsat at <https://www.inmarsat.com/fleet-33-55-77-mpds/>.

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The General Director of Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services

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