



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

CIRCULAR N° SOL 018

CLOSURE OF INMARSAT A SERVICE

**TO: SHIPOWNERS & SHIPS' OPERATORS & MANAGERS
SURVEYORS TO FLAG STATE ADMINISTRATION
CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES**

APPLICABLE TO: ALL SHIPS TO WHICH SOLAS 74 AS AMENDED APPLY
ENTRY INTO FORCE: 31st DECEMBER 2007

Monaco, 29th June, 2007.

Inmarsat A Service will be closed by midnight on 31st December 2007. All vessels with Inmarsat A installations will not be able to use Inmarsat A terminals for communication and distress/emergency calls.

Vessels presently having an Inmarsat A Terminal as secondary installation in compliance with dual equipment requirement of GMDSS will be cut off automatically at the end of this year and then become non-GMDSS compliant if alternate equipment is not installed. The alternate equipment can be an Inmarsat B or C or a Fleet 77 terminal or eventually MF/HF NBDP radio telex.

If the MF/HF NBDP is installed, we draw your attention to the fact that there is a lack of shore stations providing radio telex services and radio telex services will also be phased out in the near future (pending final decision on the date by the IMO).

If Fleet 77 is installed, we also draw your attention to the fact that it must be activated by the PSA under an AAIC. Activation under ISP Code is not acceptable. Class and Flag State surveyors will have to check that such terminals may work freely with any land/earth station (activation under an AAIC).

Class and Flag State surveyors must ensure that Inmarsat Terminals on board are licensed by the Flag Administration.