

**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NO. 02-03-99**

SUBJECT: EXEMPTION OF PHILIPPINE REGISTERED VESSELS ENGAGED IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE WHICH ARE TO BE TAKEN PERMANENTLY OUT OF SERVICE BEFORE 01 FEBRUARY 2001 FROM THE MANDATORY INSTALLATION OF THE GLOBAL MARITIME DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM (GMDSS).

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A.3396 as amended, and the 1974 SOLAS Convention as amended, concerning radio communications for the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) particularly Chapter IV, Regulation III, any Philippine registered vessel engaged in the international trade which are to be taken permanently out of service before 01 February 2001 may apply for exemption from the mandatory full installation of GMDSS. The application shall be accompanied by a written statement or certification from the ship owner duly approved and endorsed by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) that the vessel is to be taken permanently out of service before 01 February 2001. The exemption shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. The actual operation of the ship station shall be operated on only at all times by a duly qualified radio officer.
2. The vessel should be able to conduct distress and safety radiocommunications using radiotelephony on medium frequency (2182Khz) and VHF in a “dead ship” situation. This would include provision of a reserve source of electrical energy.
3. The following GMDSS apparatus must be on board: two-way portable VHF radios. Radar Transponders, Satellite EPIRB, NAVTEX, VHF with DSC, Inmarsat C with EGC and X-Band Radar.

This circular shall take effect immediately.

March 01, 1999, City of Quezon, Philippines

(SGD.) JOSEPH A. SANTIAGO
Commissioner

(SGD.) NESTOR C. DACANAY
Deputy Commissioner

(SGD.) AURELIO M. UMALI
Deputy Commissioner

