

ANNEX 12

LIAISON STATEMENT TO ITU-R WORKING PARTY 5B

Digital selective calling alarms and bridge alert management

1 The IMO Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR) would like to thank ITU-R Working Party (WP) 5B for the liaison statement (annex 24 to document 5B/731-E) sent on 25 November 2022, inviting IMO to confirm that the GMDSS distress and urgency alarms are outside of bridge alert management (BAM).

2 While operating a ship safely, the watchkeeping team, which will frequently be one individual watchkeeper, must also immediately identify any alert situation which requires action. To support this, BAM minimizes audio/visual distractions and reduces cognitive load from alerts.

3 NCSR 10, held from 10 to 19 May 2023, therefore agrees with ITU-R WP 5B that BAM, according to resolution MSC.302(87), has to be implemented in radio equipment. However, the integration of distress and urgency alarms into the BAM needs further consideration at IMO to fully answer the question from ITU-R WP 5B.

4 NCSR 10 noted that it experienced difficulties during the discussion, owing to differences in terminology in radiocommunications and BAM. The appendix to this liaison statement includes some terminology and an indicative description of the different meanings of similar terms.

5 IMO invited IEC to further study the questions regarding the technical implementation of BAM according to IEC 62923-1, making use of interfaces in accordance with IEC 61162.

6 IMO invites ITU-R WP 5B to note the information above.

APPENDIX

- 1 Use of the terms "Alarm" and "Alert":
 - .1 GMDSS Alert: message, equipment-to-equipment, through the radiocommunication link;

Alarm: audible sound and visual indication to attract attention of the seafarer.
 - .2 BAM Alert: message from the equipment to appraise the seafarer of a situation requiring attention and/or action, including visual presentation and audible signal;

Alarm: priority of an alert.
- 2 Use of the term "Acknowledge":
 - .1 GMDSS Distress DSC message of type Alert Acknowledgement, confirming the receipt of the Distress message and the intention to provide assistance.
 - .2 BAM Confirmation by the seafarer that the seafarer is aware of the basic information provided by the BAM alert concerned. The effect is that the audible alert sound stops and the visual indication stops blinking, but the alert remains indicated to the seafarer. No consequence to the DSC radio procedure.
