



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

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Review of Applications for Equipment Authorization of Ship Security Alerting Systems (SSAS) Using the COSPAS/SARSAT Satellite System

On July 1, 2004, Chapter XI-2, Regulation 6, *Revised Performance Standards for a Ship Security Alert System (SSAS)*, of the Safety of Life at Sea Convention, to which the United States is a signatory, went into effect. The SSAS provides a means for certain ships to transmit a covert security alert to shore to indicate that the security of the ship is under threat or has been compromised. The U.S. Coast Guard will assure that required vessels meet SSAS requirements during its inspection of vessels.

The Commission's Part 80 rules governing stations in the Maritime Service require certification for various radio transmitters used on board ships and by coast stations. The IMO Resolution recommended only functional requirements for the SSAS, not technical standards. Certain equipment meeting current Part 80 requirements may be utilized to meet SSAS requirements. In addition, there is equipment that meets the RTCM Recommended Standard for SSAS, but does not meet the current Part 80 requirements.¹ The Commission issued a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* in PR Docket 00-48 that addresses the SSAS and seeks comment on certification requirements for the equipment.² During the pendency of the rulemaking proceeding, for SSAS equipment not meeting all current Part 80 requirements, the FCC Laboratory will review applications for certification under the RTCM recommended standard for SSAS equipment.

Questions concerning SSAS standards may be directed to Jim Shaffer of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau at James.Shaffer@fcc.gov, and questions concerning equipment authorization may be directed to Andrew Leimer of the Office of Engineering and Technology at Andrew.Leimer@fcc.gov.

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¹ See RTCM Recommended Standards for Ship Security Alerting Systems (SSAS) Using the COSPAS/SARSAT Satellite System, Version 1.0, June 4, 2004.

² See Amendment of Parts 13 and 80 of the Commission's Rules Concerning Maritime Communications, *Second Report and Order, Sixth Report and Order, and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making*, PR Docket 00-48, 19 FCC Rcd 3120, 3163-64 ¶ 85 (2004).