

EMERGENCY RADIO PROCEDURES

The preferred method of contacting the UK Coastguard is by DSC for all types of calls
(DISTRESS, URGENCY & ROUTINE)

NAME OF VESSEL:

Call Sign: MMSI Number:

- Check main battery switch is on; switch radio on; turn up volume
- Adjust “squelch” control so noise just disappears.

If you have a DSC radio, do this first:

- Press **DISTRESS** button once, select distress designation (if possible)
- If no automatic GPS interface, follow the menu instructions and enter your current position manually (if you do not know present position leave the last position as displayed)
- Press **DISTRESS** button again **AND HOLD** for 5 seconds until acoustic alarm stops.
- Wait 15 seconds then continue as below.

Then for both DSC and non-DSC radios:

- Set the radio channel to 16 high power
- Press microphone and speak your Distress or Urgency message slowly and clear

MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY

THIS IS.....(name of vessel 3 times)

MAYDAY.....(name of vessel, call sign & MMSI number spoken once)

MY POSITION IS.....(latitude & longitude, or true bearing From a known position) – IF YOU DON'T KNOW, DON'T GUESS – GIVE YOUR LAST KNOWN POSITION

I AM.....(sinking, on fire, etc)

I REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE

I HAVE..... (number of persons onboard and any other relevant information such as availability of liferaft)

Intentions (eg abandoning to liferaft with hand held radio)

OVER – THIS MEANS “REPLY TO ME”
RELEASE THE TRANSMIT BUTTON
KEEP LISTENING ON CHANNEL 16 FOR INSTRUCTIONS

**MAKE SURE THAT YOU AND OTHERS ONBOARD KNOW HOW TO USE YOUR RADIO
BEFORE YOU NEED IT IN AN EMERGENCY**

RADIO MEDICAL ADVICE

To obtain radio medical advice or assistance in UK waters, Masters and Skippers should first contact HM Coastguard on either VHF DSC, VHF 16, MF DSC or INMARSAT. Urgent calls may be preceded by the urgency signal PAN PAN. Callers will be taken to a duplex VHF channel or simplex MF frequency. Users should avoid using mobile telephones for seeking medical advice or assistance or contacting a hospital direct.

The coastguard will then connect the caller's VHF or MF to telephone landline to make contact with the doctor at one of the designated UK centres for radio medical advice. Whilst the line is being established, the following basic information will be requested:

1. NAME OF THE VESSEL:
2. TYPE OF VESSEL:
3. DETAILS OF PATIENT:
 NAME:
 SEX:
 NATIONALITY:
4. NATURE OF SYMPTOMS / INJURY
 WHEATHER CONSCIOUS AND / OR WALKING
5. POSITION OF THE VESSEL
 (to be given as lat & long for SAR purposes)
6. ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT MAY BE APPROPRIATE

HM Coastguard will monitor the call and on completion, the doctor will brief the Coastguard as to whether the advice was to treat the patient onboard, whether the vessel is to return to port with the patient or whether medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) is recommended. The Coastguard will not initiate a MEDEVAC from a vessel without the approval of the "MCA's Radio Medical Advice Service Doctor".

Vessels operating outside of UK waters are advised to check their Almanacs or ALRS Vol.1 for TELEMEDICAL ADVICE SERVICES or, if using INMERSAT simply use two digit short code 32 Medical advice, which most earth stations will connect to a hospital for doctor's advice.