

International Maritime Organization

Overview of the 1974 SOLAS Convention

**PRIDA Training on Aeronautical and Maritime Communication Services for
English-speaking Countries in Zanzibar, Tanzania**

25 to 27 April 2023

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Maritime Safety Division

International Maritime Organization



INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME
ORGANIZATION



Established in
1948 by
adoption of
the IMO
Convention

Headquarters
in London,
United
Kingdom

More than
300
internationally
recruited staff



Assembly
Council
5 Committees
7 Sub-Committees

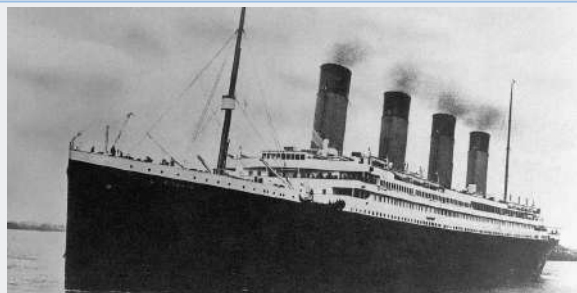
175 Member States
and three Associate
Members

In charge of 50
international
Conventions
and Protocols

Overview of the 1974 SOLAS Convention

History of SOLAS

15 April 1912



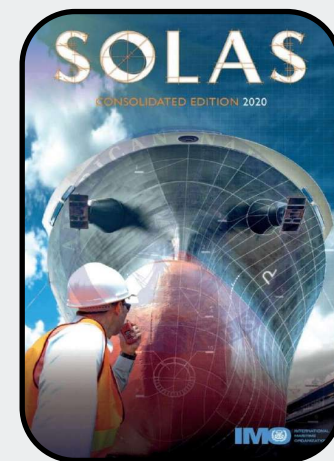
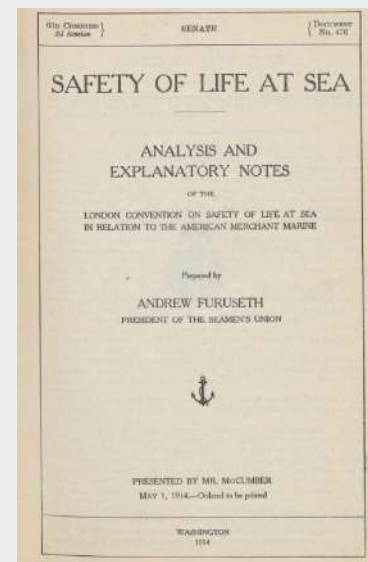
1914 first International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS)

1929 second, third and fourth versions

1948

1960

1974 Current version of SOLAS
Adopted on 1 November 1974
Entered into force on 25 May 1980



Overview of the 1974 SOLAS Convention

SOLAS Chapters

Chapter I	General Provisions
Chapter II-1	Construction - Subdivision and stability, machinery and electrical installations
Chapter II-2	Fire protection, fire detection and fire extinction
Chapter III	Life-saving appliances and arrangements
Chapter IV	Radiocommunications
Chapter V	Safety of navigation
Chapter VI	Carriage of Cargoes
Chapter VII	Carriage of dangerous goods
Chapter VIII	Nuclear ships
Chapter IX	Management for the Safe Operation of Ships
Chapter X	Safety measures for high-speed craft
Chapter XI-1	Special measures to enhance maritime safety
Chapter XI-2	Special measures to enhance maritime security
Chapter XII	Additional safety measures for bulk carriers
Chapter XIII	Verification of compliance
Chapter XIV	Safety measures for ships operating in polar waters
Chapter XV	Safety measures for ships carrying industrial personnel New!

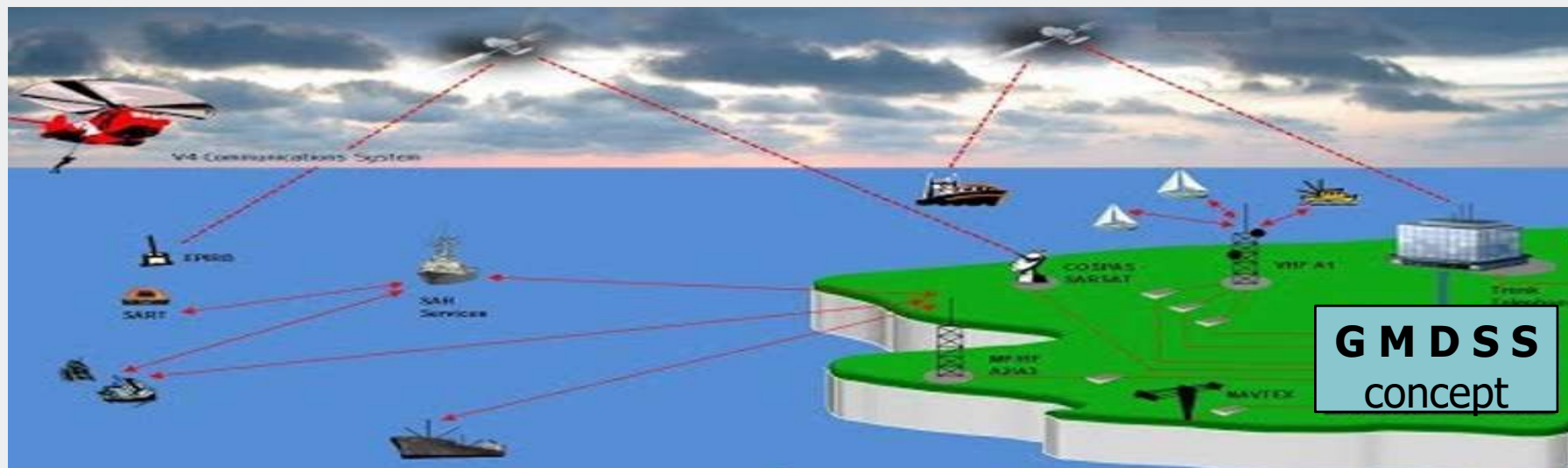
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SOLAS Chapter IV - Radiocommunications

Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)

- Adoption of SOLAS amendments on 1 February 1992
- Fully implementation on 1 February 1999

Aim: to provide facilities for rapid alerting of search and rescue authorities ashore, as well as shipping in the immediate vicinity of a ship in distress, to coordinate and execute SAR operations with minimum delay.

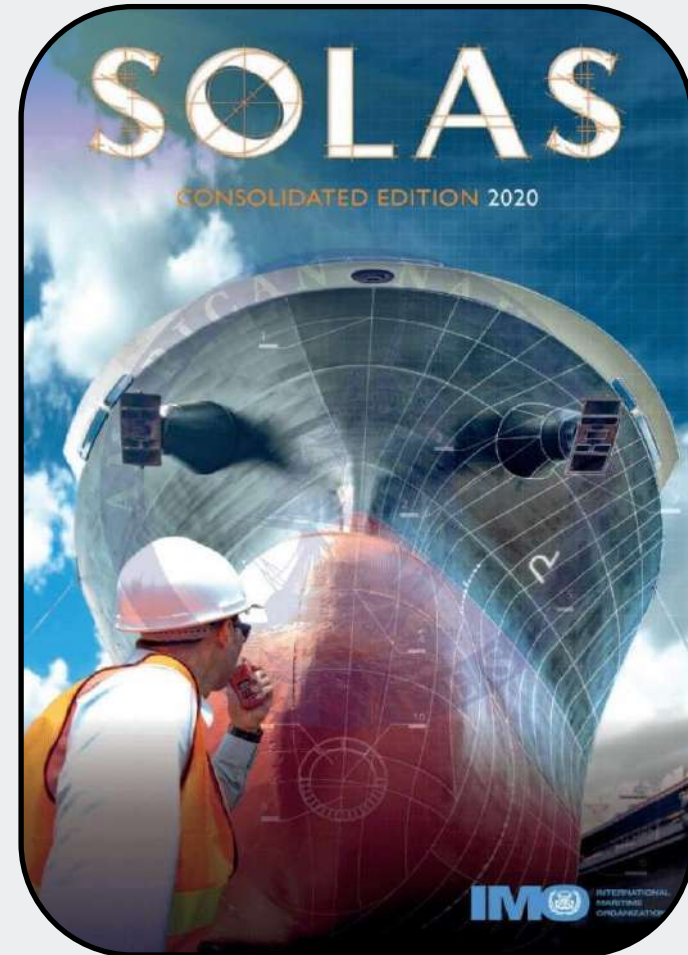


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SOLAS Chapter IV - Radiocommunications

Chapter IV contains provisions for:

- Application requirements
- Functional requirements
- Undertakings by SOLAS Contracting Governments
- Radio installations for sea areas A1/A2/A3/A4
- Radio watchkeeping
- Source of energy
- Equipment performance standards
- Maintenance requirements
- Radio personnel
- Radio records
- Position updating



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SOLAS Chapter IV - Radiocommunications

Modernization of the GMDSS

- an overall revision and update
- Removal of obsolete devices and services
- Redefinition of sea area A3
- embedded flexibility for new systems
- No new or retrofit requirements for ships

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SOLAS Chapter IV - Radiocommunications

More to come soon...

- BeiDou Message Service System ([BDMSS](#))
- NAVDAT
- VDES

IMO's World Maritime Theme for 2023:
"MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on"



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