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MSC.1/Circ.1576
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UNIFIED INTERPRETATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF SOLAS RELATING TO THE ANNUAL TESTING OF THE VDR, S-VDR, AIS AND EPIRB

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-eighth session (7 to 16 June 2017), approved the unified interpretation of SOLAS regulations V/18.8, V/18.9 and IV/15.9 relating to the annual testing of VDR, S-VDR, AIS and EPIRB, prepared by the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue at its fourth session (6 to 10 March 2017), as set out in the annex.

2 Member States are invited to use the annexed unified interpretation as guidance when applying SOLAS regulations V/18.8, V/18.9 and IV/15.9, and to bring the unified interpretation to the attention of all parties concerned.

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ANNEX

UNIFIED INTERPRETATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF SOLAS RELATING TO THE ANNUAL TESTING OF THE VDR, S-VDR, AIS AND EPIRB

SOLAS regulation V/18.8 – Annual performance test of voyage data recorder (VDR) and simplified voyage data recorder (S-VDR)

Interpretation

The annual performance test of VDR (or S-VDR) shall be carried out within the "time window" of the annual / periodical / renewal survey under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC), but not later than the date of completion of the survey for endorsement / renewal of the relevant Certificate.

SOLAS regulation V/18.9 – Annual performance test of automatic identification system (AIS)

Interpretation

The annual performance test of the AIS shall be carried out within the "time window" of the annual / periodical / renewal survey under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC), but not later than the date of completion of the survey for endorsement / renewal of the relevant Certificate.

SOLAS regulation IV/15.9 – Annual test of EPIRB

Interpretation

The annual test of the EPIRBs shall be carried out within the "time window" of the prescribed survey, but not later than the date of completion of the survey for endorsement / renewal of the relevant Certificate.