

§ 80.313 Frequencies for use in distress.

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Frequency band	Emission	Carrier frequency
1605–3500 kHz	J3E	2182 kHz.
118–136 MHz	A3E	121.500 MHz.
156–162 MHz	F3E, PON	156.800 MHz 156.750 MHz.
243 MHz	A3N	243.000 MHz.

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§ 80.314 Distress signals.

- (a) The international radiotelegraphy distress signal consists of the group “three dots, three dashes, three dots” (... ---...), symbolized herein by SOS, transmitted as a single signal in which the dashes are slightly prolonged so as to be distinguished clearly from the dots.
- (b) The international radiotelephone distress signal consists of the word MAYDAY, pronounced as the French expression “m’aider”.
- (c) These distress signals indicate that a mobile station is threatened by grave and imminent danger and requests immediate assistance.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 68 FR 46968, Aug. 7, 2003, §80.314 was amended by removing paragraph (a), and redesignating paragraphs (b) and (c) as paragraphs (a) and (b) effective October 6, 2003.

§ 80.315 Distress calls.

- (a) The radiotelegraph distress call consists of:
 - (1) The distress signal SOS, sent three times;
 - (2) The word DE;
 - (3) The call sign of the mobile station in distress, sent three times.
- (b) The radiotelephone distress call consists of:
 - (1) The distress signal MAYDAY spoken three times;
 - (2) The words THIS IS;
 - (3) The call sign (or name, if no call sign assigned) of the mobile station in distress, spoken three times.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 68 FR 46968, Aug. 7, 2003, §80.315 was amended by removing paragraph (a), redesignating paragraph (b) as paragraph (a), and adding a new paragraph (b) effective October 6, 2003. For the convenience of the user, the added text is set forth as follows:

§ 80.315 Distress calls.

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- (b) The procedures for canceling false distress alerts are contained in §80.335.

§ 80.316 Distress messages.

- (a) The radiotelegraph distress message consists of:
 - (1) The distress signal SOS;
 - (2) The name of the mobile station in distress;
 - (3) Particulars of its position;
 - (4) The nature of the distress;
 - (5) The kind of assistance desired;
 - (6) Any other information which might facilitate rescue.
- (b) The radiotelephone distress message consists of:
 - (1) The distress signal MAYDAY;
 - (2) The name of the mobile station in distress;
 - (3) Particulars of its position;
 - (4) The nature of the distress;
 - (5) The kind of assistance desired;
 - (6) Any other information which might facilitate rescue, for example, the length, color, and type of vessel, number of persons on board.
- (c) As a general rule, a ship must signal its position in latitude and longitude, using figures for the degrees and minutes, together with one of the words NORTH or SOUTH and one of the words EAST or WEST. In radiotelegraphy, the signal .-.- must be used to separate the degrees from the minutes. When practicable, the true bearing and distance in nautical miles from a known geographical position may be given.

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