

Federal Communications Commission

§ 80.331

the transmission of the message which follows the urgency signal.

[51 FR 31213, Sept. 2, 1986, as amended at 52 FR 35245, Sept. 18, 1987]

§ 80.328 Urgency message.

(a) The urgency signal and call, and the message following it, must be sent on one of the international distress frequencies. Stations which cannot transmit on a distress frequency may use any other available frequency on which attention might be attracted.

(b) Mobile stations which hear the urgency signal must continue to listen for at least three minutes. At the end of this period, if no urgency message has been heard, they may resume their normal service. However, land and mobile stations which are in communication on frequencies other than those used for the transmission of the urgency signal and of the call which follows it may continue their normal work without interruption provided the urgency message is not addressed "to all stations".

(c) When the urgency signal has been sent before transmitting a message "to all stations" which calls for action by the stations receiving the message, the station responsible for its transmission must cancel it as soon as it knows that action is no longer necessary. This message of cancellation must likewise be addressed "to all stations".

§ 80.329 Safety signals.

(a) The safety signal indicates that the station is about to transmit a message concerning the safety of navigation or giving important meteorological warnings.

(b) In radiotelegraphy, the safety signal consists of three repetitions of the group TTT, sent with the individual letters of each group, and the successive groups clearly separated from each other. It must be sent before the call.

(c) In radiotelephony, the safety signal consists of the word SECURITE, pronounced as in French, spoken three times and transmitted before the call.

(d) The safety signal and call must be sent on one of the international distress frequencies (500 kHz or 8364 kHz radiotelegraph; 2182 kHz or 156.8 MHz radiotelephone). Stations which cannot transmit on a distress frequency may

use any other available frequency on which attention might be attracted.

§ 80.330 Safety message.

(a) The safety signal and call must be followed by the safety message. Where practicable, the safety message should be sent on a working frequency, and a suitable announcement to this effect must be made at the end of the call.

(b) Except for the cases mentioned in paragraph (c) of this section, the safety signal when sent on the frequency 500 kHz must be transmitted toward the end of the first available silence period; the safety message must be transmitted immediately after the silence period.

(c) Messages about meteorological warnings, of cyclones, dangerous ice, dangerous wrecks, or any other imminent danger to marine navigation must be preceded by the safety signal.

(d) Stations hearing the safety signal must not make any transmission likely to interfere with the message.

§ 80.331 Bridge-to-bridge communication procedure.

(a) Vessels subject to the Bridge-to-Bridge Act transmitting on the designated navigational frequency must conduct communications in a format similar to those given below:

(1) This is the (name of vessel). My position is (give readily identifiable position, course and speed) about to (describe contemplated action). Out.

(2) Vessel off (give a readily identifiable position). This is (name of vessel) off (give a readily identifiable position). I plan to (give proposed course of action). Over.

(3) (Coast station), this is (vessel's name) off (give readily identifiable position). I plan to (give proposed course of action). Over.

(b) Vessels acknowledging receipt must answer "(Name of vessel calling). This is (Name of vessel answering). Received your call," and follow with an indication of their intentions. Communications must terminate when each ship is satisfied that the other no longer poses a threat to its safety and is ended with "Out".

(c) Use of power greater than 1 watt in a bridge-to-bridge station shall be

§ 80.332

limited to the following three situations:

- (1) Emergency.
- (2) Failure of the vessel being called to respond to a second call at low power.
- (3) A broadcast call as in paragraph (a)(1) of this section in a blind situation, e.g., rounding a bend in a river.

§ 80.332 Equipment to aid search and rescue operations.

- (a) Survival craft stations may transmit distress, urgency and safety signals, calls and messages.
- (b) EPIRB's may transmit only in accordance with the requirements of subparts V and X of this part.

§ 80.333 Stations in the maritime mobile-satellite service.

The provisions of §§ 80.311 and 80.324 apply to the operations of ship earth stations in the maritime mobile-satellite service.

§ 80.334 False distress alerts.

A distress alert is false if it was transmitted without any indication that a mobile unit or person was in distress and required immediate assistance. Transmitting a false distress alert is prohibited and may be subject to the provisions of part 1, subpart A of this chapter if that alert:

- (a) Was transmitted intentionally;
- (b) Was not cancelled in accordance with § 80.335;
- (c) Could not be verified as a result of either the ship's failure to keep watch on appropriate frequencies in accordance with § 80.1123 or subpart G of this part, or its failure to respond to calls from the U.S. Coast Guard;
- (d) Was repeated; or
- (e) Was transmitted using a false identity.

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§ 80.335 Procedures for canceling false distress alerts.

If a distress alert is inadvertently transmitted, the following steps shall be taken to cancel the distress alert.

- (a) VHF Digital Selective Calling.
 - (1) Reset the equipment immediately;
 - (2) Transmit a DSC distress alert cancellation (*i.e.*, own ship's acknowledgment), if that feature is available;

47 CFR Ch. I (10-1-04 Edition)

- (3) Set to Channel 16; and
- (4) Transmit a broadcast message to "All stations" giving the ship's name, call sign or registration number, and MMSI, and cancel the false distress alert.
 - (b) MF Digital Selective Calling.
 - (1) Reset the equipment immediately;
 - (2) Transmit a DSC distress alert cancellation (*i.e.*, own ship's acknowledgment), if that feature is available;
 - (3) Tune for radiotelephony transmission on 2182 kHz; and
 - (4) Transmit a broadcast message to "All stations" giving the ship's name, call sign or registration number, and MMSI, and cancel the false distress alert.
 - (c) HF Digital Selective Calling:
 - (1) Reset the equipment immediately;
 - (2) Transmit a DSC distress alert cancellation (*i.e.*, own ship's acknowledgment), if that feature is available, on each frequency on which the distress alert was transmitted;
 - (3) Tune for radiotelephony on the distress and safety frequency in each band in which a false distress alert was transmitted; and
 - (4) Transmit a broadcast message to "All stations" giving the ship's name, call sign or registration number, and MMSI, and cancel the false distress alert frequency in each band in which a false distress alert was transmitted.
 - (d) INMARSAT ship earth station. Immediately notify the appropriate rescue coordination center that the alert is cancelled by sending a distress priority message by way of the same land earth station through which the false distress alert was sent. Provide ship name, call sign or registration number, and INMARSAT identity with the cancelled alert message.
 - (e) EPIRB. If for any reason an EPIRB is activated inadvertently, immediately contact the nearest U.S. Coast Guard unit or appropriate rescue coordination center by telephone, radio or ship earth station and cancel the distress alert.
 - (f) General and other distress alerting systems. Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) through (e) of this section, ships may use additional appropriate means available to them to inform the nearest appropriate U.S. Coast Guard rescue coordination center that a false