

Annex 4

Operational guidance

1 This annex contains operational guidance for the benefit of registered information providers who are responsible for preparing messages for broadcast via the international SafetyNET Service. Use of the codes given in this annex is mandatory for all messages in the system.

2 Examples of the various types of messages and message formats are detailed in the sub-sections of this annex.

- a - Navigational warning services
- b - Meteorological services
- c - Search and rescue services
- d - Chart correction services (to be developed)
- e - Piracy countermeasures broadcast messages.

3 The broadcast parameters are controlled by the use of five codes which are combined into a generalized message header format as follows:

C₁:C₂:C₃:C₄:C₅

(Spaces, colons or other delimiters between these codes will be required, depending on the coast earth station addressed.)

Each C code controls a different broadcast parameter and is assigned a numerical value according to the options specified in the following sections. An additional code may be required to identify the ocean region when sending a broadcast message to a CES that operates to more than one ocean region.

4 The International Maritime Organization (IMO) requires that, in order to allow the use of non-dedicated receive facilities, the majority of broadcasts on the International SafetyNET Service should be made at predetermined scheduled times. Broadcast schedules must be co-ordinated through the International SafetyNET Broadcast Co-ordinating Panel, which can also offer advice on ways of scheduling information within the system.

5 Since errors in the header format of a message may prevent its being released; maritime safety information (MSI) providers must install an Inmarsat SafetyNET receiver and monitor broadcasts of messages which they originate.

6 It has been agreed that the indicative key words MAYDAY/PAN PAN/SECURITE should be used in the International SafetyNET Service to highlight the importance of individual MSI messages. Navigational warnings and meteorological information should therefore be preceded by the word SECURITE unless exceptional use of PAN PAN is appropriate for a particular urgency message. Search and rescue information should be broadcast using whichever indicator is appropriate under the circumstances.

Section b
Meteorological services

1 The following sets out the arrangements to be used for the broadcast of meteorological forecasts and warnings via SafetyNET for the GMDSS. They are mandatory for broadcasts in the International SafetyNET Service.

2 These guidelines are to be read in conjunction with the WMO Manual on Marine Meteorological Services, as revised for the GMDSS.

3 In order to ensure uniformity of the broadcast of meteorological bulletins and warnings globally, the following standard C codes should be used for meteorological forecasts and warnings issued via SafetyNET for the GMDSS.

3.1 *C₁ - Message priority*

Always $C_1 = 2$ (urgency) for warnings

Note: to be used for urgent tropical cyclone warnings only. All other warnings to be classified as safety ($C_1 = 1$).

Always $C_1 = 1$ (safety) for forecasts and warnings (see note).

3.2 *C₂ - Service code*

Meteorological warnings ($C_1 = 1$ or 2) to circular area $C_2 = 24$

Meteorological warnings or forecasts to METAREA $C_2 = 31$

Meteorological warnings or forecasts to coastal areas $C_2 = 13$

3.3 *C₃ - Address code*

Meteorological warnings ($C_1 = 1$ or 2) to circular area (service code $C_2 = 24$) $C_3 = 10$ characters

The address code for circular areas is fully described in annex 6, paragraph 1.33(d), but is repeated here for ease of reference:

The circular address will consist of 10 characters as follows:

$D_1D_2LaD_3D_4D_5LoR_1R_2R_3$

where:

$D_1 D_2 L_a$ (three characters) is latitude of centre in degrees, and L_a whether north (N) or south (S). A leading zero should be used for latitudes less than 10° .

$D_3 D_4 D_5 L_o$ (four characters) is longitude of centre in degrees, and L_o whether east (E) or west (W) of the prime meridian. One or two leading zeros should be used for longitudes less than 100° .

$R_1 R_2 R_3$ (three characters) is radius of circle in nautical miles, up to 999.

Example: A circle centred at latitude $56^\circ N$ longitude $34^\circ W$ with radius of 10 nautical miles is coded as:

56N034W010

Meteorological warnings
($C_2 = 31$)

C_3 = the two digits denoting the area of broadcast responsibility (the METAREA), with a leading zero where necessary, e.g., 01, 06, 13.

Coastal warnings ($C_2 = 13$)
- broadcasts using NAVTEX codes to coastal areas where NAVTEX is not provided or where NAVTEX broadcasts are to be duplicated

$C_3 = X_1 X_2$ to identify the METAREA and $B_1 B_2$ to emulate NAVTEX as specified in paragraph 1.33(c) of annex 6. Note that B_1 codes will be allocated by IMO in accordance with the procedures for allocating NAVTEX transmitter identities laid down in the NAVTEX Manual. B_2 will always be B or E. The METAREA X_1 and X_2 codes and the NAVTEX B_1 and B_2 codes are sent to the CES as a four-character group, in the order $X_1 X_2 B_1 B_2$.

3.4 C_4 - Repetition code

Category (a) repetition codes are used for meteorological information as follows:

Meteorological warning

$C_4 = 11$ (On receipt followed by repeat 6 minutes later
Note: a 6 minute repeat is used to ensure that by the maximum number of ships.)

Meteorological forecast

$C_4 = 01$ (Transmit once on receipt.)

3.5 C_5 - Presentation code

Always $C_5 = 00$, International Alphabet number 5.

Examples

Meteorological warning to METAREA:

```
1:31:01:11:00  
SECURITE  
[text]  
NNNN
```

See note.

Meteorological warning (to circular area, i.e. only intended to be received by ships within the area of the address).

```
2:24:20NO65W500:11:00  
PAN PAN  
[text]  
NNNN
```

NB: PAN PAN is used for messages with urgency priority ($C_1 = 2$). *See note.*

Meteorological forecast

```
1:31:08:01:00  
SECURITE  
[text]  
NNNN
```

See note.

Note: Broadcast text is to be as required by *WMO Manual on Marine Meteorological Services*.