



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

Commandant
U.S. Coast Guard
Inspections and Compliance Directorate
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MSIB Number: 15-15 (Rev 2)
Date: August 23, 2016
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U.S. Coast Guard Request for Waiver to Permit Use of Class D VHF Digital Selective Calling Equipment in Lieu of Class A Equipment

This supersedes MSIB No. 15-15 (Rev 1) issued on March 30, 2016. On August 19, 2016, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued an [Order](#) (DA 16-948) permitting the installation and use of Class D VHF-DSC radio equipment in lieu of Class A equipment by passenger ships and small passenger vessels subject to Subparts W and S, respectively, of Title 47 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 80, provided that the vessel does not make international voyages, and the radio contains integral GPS capabilities or is connected to an electronic position-fixing device.

The FCC has concluded that continuing to require vessels to request individual exemptions to permit use of a Class D VHF-DSC radio in lieu of a Class A radio imposes an undue administrative and financial burden. Therefore, these small passenger vessels may install the Class D VHF-DSC radio to comply with Title 47 CFR § 80.905(a)(1) without first obtaining an FCC permit exemption.

Questions concerning the FCC Order should be directed to the FCC Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. Questions concerning this notice may be directed to the Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance, Commandant (CG-CVC) at 202-372-1251 or CG-CVC-1@uscg.mil.