



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

Commandant
U.S. Coast Guard
Directorate of Marine Safety, Security & Stewardship
2100 Second Street, SW, Stop 7355
Washington, DC 20593

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Contact: Larry Solomon
Phone: (202) 475-3556
E-Mail: larry.s.solomon@uscg.mil

Termination of Radiotelephone Medium Frequency (MF) 2182 kHz Watchkeeping, 2187.5 kHz DSC Guard and 2670 kHz Broadcasts.

Today the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) published a *Federal Register* notice announcing that it will no longer maintain a watch on 2182 kHz, will no longer guard the Digital Selective Calling (DSC) channel 2187.5 kHz, and will no longer transmit Marine Information Broadcasts on 2670 kHz. The minimal use of these channels by mariners for distress and safety coupled with antenna site deterioration, costly upkeep, and extensive maintenance required to support the MF system have led to a Coast Guard decision to terminate the MF services. Mariners should either: tune their existing high frequency (HF) radios to other Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) radiotelephone distress frequencies the Coast Guard guards (4125, 6215, 8291 or 12290 kHz voice); use satellite-based communication for EPIRB and voice communications; or use HF radios equipped with DSC. The information in the 2670 kHz broadcasts (weather forecasts and warnings, Notice to Mariners, and urgent marine information broadcasts) will continue to be available from other broadcast sources (e.g., SafetyNet, NAVTEX, HF) and online. The Coast Guard urges mariners to use these other alternatives to the MF channels for distress calls, DSC calls and information broadcasts.

The notice may be reviewed at <http://www.regulations.gov> docket number: USCG-2013-0521.

For more information, please contact Larry Solomon, Office of Information Assurance and Spectrum Policy, U.S. Coast Guard; telephone (202) 475-3556, e-mail larry.s.solomon@uscg.mil.

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