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## Maritime Safety Information (MSI)

Note to Shipowners, Masters, Superintendents and Skippers of Fishing Vessels, Yachts and Other Seagoing Craft

*This note supersedes Merchant Shipping Notice M.1619*

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1. Masters, skippers and others should use every available means to obtain the latest maritime safety information (MSI) – defined in the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention as navigational and meteorological warnings, meteorological forecasts and other urgent safety related messages broadcast to ships. This Notice gives guidance about the principal sources of relevant information.

### Navigational Warnings

2. In port, navigational warnings can be obtained by consulting Section III of weekly editions of **Admiralty Notices to Mariners** for the latest consecutively numbered NAVAREA navigational warnings and – immediately before sailing – collecting from the port any later NAVAREA navigational warnings (in UK ports, these are generally available at Customs Houses as weekly sheets containing NAVAREA 1 warnings, and selected important warnings covering NAVAREAs 2, 3 and 4).

3. At sea, full use should be made of NAVTEX, INMARSAT's Enhanced Group Calling Facility (SafetyNET<sup>SM</sup>), HF, MF and VHF radio to obtain the most up-to-date Radio Navigational Warnings broadcasts. Details of the UK COASTAL and NAVAREA elements of the Worldwide Navigational Warnings Service are set out in the **Admiralty List of Radio Signals** and the **Annual Summary of Admiralty Notices to Mariners** (N<sup>o</sup>. 13) and in all good almanacs.

### Weather Warnings

4. Weather warnings for commercial shipping can be obtained at a number of UK ports or direct from the Meteorological Office by telephoning 01344 854 913.

5. The Meteorological Office also provides:

(a) MetFAX Marine – a dial-up facsimile weather service supplying weather maps, two to five days forecasts for UK sea areas and local coastal waters. The MetFAX Marine index page on 0336 400 401 gives a full list of services. Further information is available from the MetFAX Helpline by faxing 01344 854 018 or telephoning 01344 854 435; and,

(b) Marinecall – a telephone service providing weather forecasts for inshore waters up to 12 nautical miles offshore (Marinecall areas and telephone numbers are listed for information on page 3 of this notice).

6. At sea, full use should be made of weather information (including gale and storm warnings and strong wind warnings for coastal waters) broadcast on NAVTEX, INMARSAT's Enhanced Group Calling Facility (SafetyNET<sup>SM</sup>), HF, MF and VHF radio. Coastguard broadcasts weather information for inshore waters (up to 12 nautical miles offshore) every four hours, or two hours for gale or strong wind warnings.

7. Skippers of yachts, in particular, should use the MetFAX Marine and Marinecall services, listen to weather forecasts broadcast on local and national radio and the repetition of meteorological information relayed by the Coastguard service and refer to other sources which can be found in all good almanacs.

#### **NAVTEX and Enhanced Group Calling Facility Reception Arrangements**

8. NAVTEX receivers should be programmed to receive information from the Radio Stations covering the area in which the ship is navigating,

or is about to enter. The Enhanced Group Calling Facility should be logged on to the appropriate INMARSAT satellite for the international SafetyNET<sup>SM</sup> Service broadcasting MSI to the area in which the ship is navigating, or is about to enter; this may require monitoring broadcasts from separate satellites.

9. Full details of these services and any localised practices can be found in **Admiralty List of Radio Signals Volumes 3 and 5**. Masters should satisfy themselves that the officer of the watch is aware of the need to inform them of the content of navigational and meteorological warnings and weather forecasts.

**MSAS(A)  
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SO15 1EG**

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An executive agency of  
**THE DEPARTMENT OF THE  
ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT  
AND THE REGIONS**

## Areas of Marinecall and telephone number

Area 1	Scotland North	0891	500	451
Area 2	Scotland East	"	"	452
Area 3	North East	"	"	453
Area 4	East	"	"	454
Area 5	Anglia	"	"	455
Area 6	Channel East	"	"	456
Area 7	Mid-Channel	"	"	457
Area 8	South West	"	"	458
Area 9	Bristol Channel	"	"	459
Area 10	Wales	"	"	460
Area 11	North West	"	"	461
Area 12	Clyde	"	"	462
Area 13	Caledonia	"	"	463
Area 14	Minch	"	"	464
Area 15	Ulster	"	"	465
Southern North Sea		"	"	466
English Channel		"	"	467