



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

MARINE GUIDANCE NOTE

MGN 366 (M+F)

Off-Shore Pirate Broadcasting

Notice to all Owners and Masters of Merchant Ships, Owners and Skippers of Fishing Vessels, Boat Owners, Yacht Owners and Boatmen

This notice supersedes MGN 320

PLEASE NOTE:-

Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel and you should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.

Summary

It is an offence to establish and use an unlicensed broadcasting station on board ships either within or outside UK territorial limits.

1. Background

1.1 The establishment and use of unlicensed broadcasting stations on board ships either within or outside territorial limits is prohibited by international law and UK law. Broadcasting to the UK from prescribed areas of the high seas, which include much of the North Sea, is also an offence under UK law. Under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 it is an offence to supply and carry goods and materials or to carry persons to or from an offshore radio station. On conviction, an offender is liable to an unlimited fine and two years' imprisonment and also faces confiscation of his vessel. Marine structures such as forts or lighthouses are also covered by the Act.

More Information

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