



International Mobile Satellite Organization

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Twenty-First Session

27 – 29 February 2008

Agenda item 5

IMSO/AC/21/5.1

Origin: Director

Date: 8 February 2008

GLOBAL MARITIME DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM (GMDSS)

GMDSS SERVICES AND PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

Executive Summary:	this document provides information on various issues affecting the provision of GMDSS
Action to be taken:	to note the information provided
Related documents:	none

1 GMDSS SERVICES PROVIDED BY INMARSAT

The annual contribution by IMSO to the Twelfth Session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR 12) on “Analysis and assessment of the GMDSS performance of Inmarsat Global Ltd” was submitted to IMO on 31 January 2008. Members of the Committee were sent a copy of this document on 28 January 2008, in advance of its submission to IMO.

This document provides analysis and assessment of the performance by Inmarsat Global Ltd of the company’s obligations for the provision of maritime services within the GMDSS, as overseen by IMSO. The information covers the period from 01 November 2006 to 31 December 2007. It is assessed that, during this period, Inmarsat has continued to provide a sufficient quality of service to meet its obligations under the GMDSS.

A copy was sent to all IMSO Member States on 4 February 2008 and copies are available on request.

2 **IOR CONTINGENCY EXERCISE**

The Deputy Director and the Technical Assignee attended programmed Contingency Exercises for the Indian Ocean Region satellites on 9 January 2008. The exercises involved the participation of the relevant Land Earth Station Operators (LESOs). On both occasions, the maritime distress and safety services were successfully restored within the one-hour timescale required by IMSO and IMO. Such exercises are carried out on an approximately quarterly basis, as required by IMSO. These exercises provide IMSO with continuing assurance that Inmarsat operations staff are fully aware of their responsibilities and are ready to exercise their delegated authority to act within the timescales required. Each exercise is conducted according to a script, which is unique for each ocean region, and ensures that all necessary actions are taken in the correct order and at the correct time. The scripts are reviewed and revised after each exercise, to incorporate any lessons learnt.

The next contingency exercise is programmed to be held for the AOR-West satellites on 16 April 2008.

3 **PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE**

As provided for in the Public Services Agreement, the Director and Deputy Director attended a meeting of the Public Services Committee on 4 February 2008, which was chaired by the Director.
