

M.S. Notice 19 of 1998

Subject : False distress alert by EPIRB on board Indian ship.

In recent past, a false distress alert regarding accidental activation of EPIRB was detected on board an Indian ship. It was reported that the metallic clip of securing strap of the EPIRB worked loose due to continuous rolling, pitching and vibration, resulting in the securing strap coming adrift thereby activating the EPIRB. The EPIRB was stowed on the Monkey Island. In this regard, the following M. S. Notices issued earlier by this Directorate, may also be referred: -

- i. M. S. Notice 5 of 1998 issued vide letter No. 27-NT(2)/95-I dated 9.6.1998;
- ii. M. S. Notice 14 of 1998 issued vide letter No. 18-NT(9)/93 dated 12.8.1998; and
- iii. M. S. Notice 18 of 1998 issued vide letter No. 19-NT(1)/95 dated 23.9.1998.

As there is an increase in the false distress alerts, the Director General of Shipping vide this M.S. Notice urges all ship owners to ensure that;

- The EPLRBs are properly secured as per requirements of guidelines annexed to Resolution A.814(19) in order to avoid false distress alerts.
- The securing arrangements of EPIRBs are checked at least once during each watch and during the control tests prior to arrival & departure of the ship.
- Each Service Station should ensure the strength and effectiveness of securing arrangements of EPIRBs at each annual servicing.