



GMDSS IS MANDATORY UNDER SOLAS FOR MOST COMMERCIAL VESSELS.

SEA AREAS

SEA AREA A1

VHF DSC COVERAGE
APPROXIMATELY 20-30
NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE
COAST

SEA AREA A2

MF DSC COVERAGE
UP TO APPROXIMATELY 150
NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE
COAST

SEA AREA A3

COVERED BY SATELLITE
COMMUNICATIONS (INMARSAT)

SEA AREA A4

POLAR REGIONS OUTSIDE
SATELLITE COVERAGE

MF

DSC

2187.5 KHZ – MF DSC DISTRESS
AND SAFETY ALERTING

VOICE

2182 KHZ – MF DISTRESS,
URGENCY, AND SAFETY
COMMUNICATIONS

EPIRB & SART

SART

406 MHZ – SATELLITE DISTRESS ALERTING (COSPAS-SARSAT)
121.5 MHZ – HOMING SIGNAL FOR SAR AIRCRAFT AND VESSELS

EPIRB

9 GHZ (X-BAND RADAR) – RADAR SART RESPONSE
AIS-SART – USES AIS VHF FREQUENCIES VIA AIS SYSTEM

DISTRESS ALERTING PRIORITY

1. DSC DISTRESS ALERT (VHF / MF / HF
OR SATELLITE)
2. EPIRB ACTIVATION (AUTOMATIC OR
MANUAL)
3. VOICE MAYDAY (IF TIME AND
CONDITIONS PERMIT)
4. SART / AIS-SART ACTIVATED IN
SURVIVAL CRAFT

VHF

DSC

CHANNEL 70 – DSC DISTRESS, URGENCY,
AND SAFETY ALERTING

VOICE

CHANNEL 16 – DISTRESS, URGENCY,
SAFETY, AND CALLING

CHANNEL 13 – BRIDGE-TO-BRIDGE SAFETY
COMMUNICATIONS

CHANNEL 06 – ON-SCENE SAR
COMMUNICATIONS (SAR UNITS)

HF

DSC

4207.5 KHZ
6312.0 KHZ
8414.5 KHZ
12577.0 KHZ
16804.5 KHZ

VOICE

4125 KHZ
6215 KHZ
8291 KHZ
12290 KHZ
16420 KHZ