



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

MARINE GUIDANCE NOTE

MGN 320 (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 replaces MSN 1488

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 Marine, & c., Broadcasting (Offences) Act 1967, as amended by the Broadcasting Act 1990, 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

Navigation Safety Branch
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Bay 2/29
Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
Southampton
SO15 1EG

Tel : +44 (0) 23 8032 9146
Fax : +44 (0) 23 8032 9204
e-mail: Navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk

General Inquiries: 24 Hour Infoline
infoline@mcga.gov.uk
0870 600 6505

MCA Website Address: www.mcga.gov.uk

File Ref: MNA 139/002/0055

Published: April 2006

© Crown Copyright 2006

Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas

Printed on material containing minimum 75% post-consumer waste paper



*An executive agency of the
Department for
Transport*