4C	RADIO DISTRESS CALLING

Former *Annual New Zealand Notice to Mariners, No. 4C,* published 1 July 2021 is cancelled. Additions and amendments to the former notice are indicated by sidelines.

Authority: Maritime New Zealand

RADIO DISTRESS CALLING

USE ONLY

If in grave or imminent danger

- **Switch radio to Full Power**
- **Use Ch 16 VHF or 2182, 4125, 6215, 8291, 12290, 16420 SSB**
- **MAYDAY MAYDAY MAYDAY**
- **THIS IS (name of vessel) – Spoken three times**
- **(CALLSIGN) – Spoken once**
- **MAYDAY (name of vessel and call sign)**
- **Vessel's position in degrees and minutes of latitude and longitude, or bearing and distance relative from a known geographical feature.**
- **Nature of distress and the kind of assistance required.**
- **Number of persons on board.**
- **Any other information which may assist rescuers – description of vessel, liferaft, EPIRB.**
- **OVER**
- **Allow a short period for shore station to reply. If no answer, activate your EPIRB and repeat the distress call working through all the distress frequencies.**
- **If contact is made with shore station, inform station if you have activated your EPIRB.**

DO NOT TURN OFF EPIRB until told to do so by rescue authority.

You can use any means to communicate distress simultaneously.

Digital Selective Calling (DSC)

1. This is an automatic calling system which makes the initial contact between two stations, groups of stations or stations in a selected area. The caller composes a short message which is transmitted directly to the receiving station(s). It is the core part of the Global Maritime Distress Safety System (GMDSS).

New Zealand DSC Coverage

2. The system, based at Taupo Maritime Radio, has a coverage area for the GMDSS oceanic area designations* A3 and A4 in the New Zealand monitored sea area NAVAREA XIV.
3. DSC is not used on the maritime VHF or MF frequency bands and does not cover the GMDSS in-shore area designations* of A1 and A2.

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* Definitions of GMDSS Sea Areas:

A1 – Sea area A1 means an area within the radiotelephone coverage of at least one very high frequency (VHF) coast station in which continuous DSC alerting is available, as may be defined by a Contracting Government. (**VHF DSC alerting not available to shore stations in New Zealand**).

A2 – Sea area A2 means an area, excluding sea area A1, within the radiotelephone coverage of at least one medium frequency (MF) coast station in which continuous DSC alerting is available, as may be defined by a Contracting Government. (**MF DSC alerting not available to shore stations in New Zealand**).

A3 – Sea area A3 means an area, excluding sea areas A1 and A2, within the coverage of a recognized mobile satellite service supported by the ship earth station carried on board, in which continuous alerting is available.

A4 – Sea area A4 means an area outside of sea areas A1, A2 and A3.

DSC Operation

4. When the DSC equipment receives a call it raises an alarm. Embedded within the alert signal is an indication of how subsequent communications should be made, either radiotelephony or radio telex.

   If the caller is in distress, the ship's Identifier Number (MMSI), position and nature of distress are included in the DSC message. For distress and urgency alerts, the alarm sounds continuously until the received information has been read by the operator.

   DSC Distress alerts received by Taupo Maritime Radio are immediately passed to the Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ).
5. DSC uses the HF maritime radio frequencies in the 4, 6, 8, 12 and 16 MHz bands.

DSC Distress Procedures

To be used by all HF DSC-equipped vessels operating in the NAVAREA XIV sea areas A3 and A4 if time permits.

6. By a Ship Transmitting a DSC Distress Alert:

(a) If time permits, consult the optimum frequency/range diagrams for communicating with Taupo Maritime Radio which are published quarterly in the *New Zealand Notices to Mariners.* As a general rule the DSC distress channel in the 8 MHz maritime band (8414.5 kHz) may in many cases be an appropriate first choice.

(b) DSC distress alerts may be sent on a number of HF bands by transmitting the distress call either as:

(i) Five consecutive calls on one frequency (single frequency call attempt), and waiting a few minutes for receiving acknowledgement by a coast station; or

(ii) Up to six consecutive calls dispersed over a maximum of six distress frequencies (one at MF and five at HF). Note that Taupo Maritime does not monitor the MF DSC distress frequency. Stations transmitting multi-frequency call attempts should be able to receive acknowledgements continuously on all frequencies except for the transmit frequency in use.

(c) AFTER the vessel has received a DSC acknowledgement of their distress alert, transmit a MAYDAY call on the associated HF radio telephony band. For example, if 8414.5 kHz had been used for the DSC distress alert, then 8291 kHz would be used for the MAYDAY message.

(d) Normally a DSC acknowledgement should be received from a coast station (Note: a coast station MMSI always begins with "00", for example Taupo Maritime Radio – 005120010).

7. By a Ship Receiving a DSC Distress Alert:

(a) View the details of the distress alert (ship's position, MMSI number etc.).

(b) **Do not acknowledge.** Switch to the associated HF band, and listen to the MAYDAY call and message, which should follow.

(c) Wait for at least three minutes for an acknowledgement of the MAYDAY message from a coast station using the selected HF band.

(d) If, after three minutes, no acknowledgement from a coast station is received, transmit a DSC MAYDAY RELAY alert to a suitable shore station if using DSC and inform any Rescue Coordination Centre that a MAYDAY message has been received and give the details. This relay message can be sent by any means, on any suitable GMDSS distress and safety frequency.

The following frequencies have been assigned to Taupo Maritime Radio (ZLM) for Distress, Urgency and Safety use for DSC, Voice and SITOR:

Bands	*DSC*	*Voice*	*SITOR (FEC)*
HF4	4207.5	4125	4177.5
HF6	6312.0	6215	6268
HF8	8414.5	8291	8376.5
HF12	12577	12290	12520
HF16	16804.5	16420	16695

The following voice Working Frequencies have been allocated to ZLM:

Band	*Frequency*						
MF2	2207						
HF4	4146	4149					
HF6	6224	6227	6230				
HF8	8297	8294					
HF12	12356	12353	12359	12362	12365		
HF16	16531	16528	16534	16537	16540	16543	16546
HF22	22159	22165	22171	22177			