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COMSAR.1/Circ.55  
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**GUIDANCE FOR ENTERING AND UPDATING INFORMATION ON SEARCH  
AND RESCUE SERVICES INTO GISIS AND ON HOW TO GET ACCESS  
TO THE INFORMATION FOR OPERATIONAL USE**

1 The Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR), at its sixteenth session (12 to 16 March 2012), agreed to change the existing system of communicating information on SAR services to the Organization, as from 1 December 2012. The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), at its ninety-first session (26 to 30 November 2012), approved the Guidance for entering and updating information on search and rescue into GISIS and on how to access information for operational use.

2 The Sub-Committee noted that a new module of GISIS, called "Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR)", had been developed, containing basically the same information as available in the SAR.8 Circular (Global SAR Plan).

3 The Sub-Committee considered that making the COMSAR module accessible via GISIS would provide:

- .1 the opportunity for Member Governments to enter and update information on SAR services directly into GISIS; and
- .2 interested parties direct access to updated information on SAR services.

4 This circular is to inform Member Governments and interested parties of the above-mentioned change, and to clarify the procedure of entering and updating information into GISIS and on how to get access to the information for operational use.

5 Member Governments, ITU, ICAO, WMO, IHO, IMSO and the Cospas-Sarsat Partners are requested to bring this circular, and the information annexed hereto, to the attention of maritime, aviation, telecommunication, hydrographic and meteorological Authorities, SAR Authorities, Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres (MRCCs), Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centres (ARCCs), Joint Rescue Coordination Centres (JRCCs), Coast Earth Stations (CESS), Coast Stations (CSs), Cospas-Sarsat Mission Control Centres (MCCs), hydrographers, shipowners, training institutions and seafarers.

6 This circular revokes COMSAR.1/Circ.52, as from 1 December 2012.

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## ANNEX

### GUIDANCE FOR ENTERING AND UPDATING INFORMATION ON SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICES INTO GISIS AND ON HOW TO GET ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION FOR OPERATIONAL USE

#### General

1 This note provides guidance to Member Governments and interested parties for entering and updating information on search and rescue (SAR) services into the Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS) and on how to get access to the information for operational use.

2 The COMSAR module is a public module of GISIS and contains the information communicated by Member Governments to the Organization in response to COMSAR.1/Circ.52 on Questionnaire on the availability of SAR Services, which was distributed once a year in the past as a SAR.8 Circular (the Global SAR Plan).

3 As from 1 December 2012, information concerning the availability of SAR services will be updated by Member Governments through the COMSAR module of GISIS and, therefore, COMSAR.1/Circ.52 will be revoked and SAR.8 Circular will no longer be distributed.

4 The information contained in the COMSAR module is accessible to all Member Governments and interested parties, including the general public via the GISIS website.

#### Accessing the COMSAR module of GISIS

5 The COMSAR module is accessible via the GISIS website at: <http://gisis.imo.org>

6 To access GISIS, a valid IMO Web Account is required\*. The general public can register for a free account online, for read-only access to GISIS modules (including the COMSAR module), while nominated IMO Web Accounts administrators of IMO Members can create accounts for their authorized users for updating information pertaining to their administration.

#### Communication of information

7 Relevant permissions for entering and updating information into the COMSAR module are assigned by each individual IMO Web Accounts administrator.

8 The system allows entering and updating information concerning:

- .1 national authorities responsible for Maritime SAR;
- .2 Rescue Coordination Centres (RCCs); and
- .3 Telemedical Maritime Advice Services (TMAS).

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\* Circular letter No.2892 provides additional guidance on access to IMO Web services, including GISIS and IMODOCS. Queries relating to the IMO Web Accounts system may be directed to the Secretariat by e-mail to: [webaccounts@imo.org](mailto:webaccounts@imo.org)