

RESOLUTION MSC.592(111) (adopted on 21 May 2026)
INTRODUCTION OF VHF DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM (VDES)
INTO THE IMO REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

ANNEX 13

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THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 28(b) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Committee,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolution MSC.583(111) by which the Committee adopted amendments to chapter V and the appendix (Certificates) of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 ("the Convention"), introducing the VHF data exchange system (VDES) as an alternative shipborne navigational equipment and system to the automatic identification system (AIS),

TAKING ALSO INTO ACCOUNT resolution MSC.593(111) on *Performance standards for shipborne VHF data exchange system (VDES)* and MSC.1/Circ.1699 on *Guidelines for the onboard operational use of shipborne VHF data exchange system (VDES)*,

RECOGNIZING that AIS is one of the four components of VDES, which allows the existing AIS to coexist with VDES,

RECOGNIZING ALSO that existing AIS requirements, guidelines and recommendations should be considered as also applicable to the AIS component of VDES,

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that any additional functionalities or communication capabilities provided by VDES beyond its AIS component, even if offering similar functions or services to AIS, are not to be considered equivalent to AIS nor a substitute for the AIS equipment required under SOLAS regulations,

HAVING CONSIDERED, at its 111th session, the recommendation made by the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue, at its twelfth session,

1 DECIDES that, in order to facilitate the introduction and implementation of the VHF data exchange system (VDES) into the IMO regulatory framework, references made to the carriage and use of "automatic identification system" or "AIS" in the IMO regulatory framework should also be understood as references to the AIS component of VDES, as defined in resolution MSC.593(111) on *Performance standards for shipborne VHF data exchange system (VDES)*;

2 INVITES Member States and international organizations to apply the above decision in the implementation and use of VDES.

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