

SHIP-TO-SHORE H.F. COMMUNICATION

Schedule B

Watch is maintained as follows at Area Receiving Stations for Calls from Ships:—

Area Station.		Watch-keeping for ships' calls.		
Name.	Call sign.	Answering frequency (kcs).	Hours of watch-keeping G.M.T.	Frequency band (kcs).
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
Portishead	GKK	4,995	On request	4,135-4,145
	GKV	6,388	Continuous	6,202-5-6,217-5
	GKL	8,385	Continuous	8,270-8,290
	GKG	12,515	0600-2200	12,405-12,435
	GKS	16,845	0800-2200	16,540-16,580
Sydney	VIS	8,365	Continuous	8,270-8,290
	VIS	12,535	Continuous	12,405-12,435
	VIS	16,825	2200-1300	16,540-16,580
Capetown	ZSJ	4,740	2000-0400	4,135-4,145
	ZSJ2	6,395	2000-0400	6,202-5-6,217-5
	ZSJ3	8,375	Continuous	8,270-8,290
	ZSJ4	12,520	0400-2000	12,405-12,435
	ZSJ5	16,840	0400-2000	16,540-16,580
Ceylon	GZP3	8,375	Continuous	8,270-8,290
	GZP4	12,520	Continuous	12,405-12,435
	GZP5	16,875	Continuous	16,540-16,580
Bombay	VTF3	8,370	Continuous	8,270-8,290
	VTF4	12,520	Continuous	12,405-12,435
	VTF5	16,835	Continuous	16,540-16,580
Irirangi	ZLO	16,835	Continuous	16,540-16,580
Awarua	ZLB3	8,290	Continuous	8,270-8,290
	ZLB4	12,520	1800-0600	12,405-12,435
Vancouver	CKN	4,740	Continuous	4,135-4,145
	CKN2	6,395	Continuous	6,202-5-6,217-5
	CKN3	8,290	0400-1600	8,270-8,290
	CKN4	12,520	Continuous	12,405-12,435
	CKN5	16,845	1600-0400	16,540-16,580
Singapore	GYL3	8,290	Continuous	8,270-8,290
	GYL4	12,520	Continuous	12,405-12,435
Hong Kong	GZO3	8,290	Continuous	8,270-8,290
	GZO4	12,520	Continuous	12,405-12,435
Halifax	CFH	4,740	0001-1000	4,135-4,145
	CFH2	6,395	Continuous	6,202-5-6,217-5
	CFH3	8,367-5	Continuous	8,270-8,290
	CFH4	12,520	1000-1400	12,405-12,435
	CFH5	17,132	1000-1200	16,540-16,580

SUPPLEMENTARY RECEIVING STATIONS

The following stations are linked to the GBMS Organization. They should not normally be called direct nor have messages addressed to them, but they may offer to accept ship-shore H.F. traffic in order to expedite clearance:—

Station.		Watch-keeping particulars.		
Name.	Call sign.	Answering frequency (kcs).	Hours of watch-keeping G.M.T.	Frequency band (kcs).
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
Coonawarra	VHM2	6,395	1800-2200	6,202-5-6,217-5
	VHM3	8,290	1000-1500, 1930-2200	8,270-8,290
	VHM4	12,520	2200-1300, 1500-1930	12,405-12,435
	VHM5	16,835	0000-1000, 1300-1500	16,540-16,580
	Malta	GYX	6,395	2000-0600*
GYX3		8,370	Continuous*	8,270-8,290
GYX4		12,520	0600-2000*	12,405-12,435
Vizagapatam	VTO3	8,370	Continuous	8,270-8,290
	VTO4	12,520	Continuous	12,405-12,435

* May to September only. From October to May, change takes place at 1800.

Authority.—Admiralty. (H. 6069/52.)

Wellington, N.Z., 26 January, 1952.

W. C. SMITH, Secretary for Marine.

(M. 10/145)

Notice to Mariners No. 3 of 1953

(This notice repeats parts of Admiralty Notice to Mariners No. 3B of 1953)

3B. OFFICIAL RADIO MESSAGES TO MERCHANT SHIPS—THE MERCASST SYSTEM.

Former Notice 3B/52 cancelled.

NOTE.—The substance of this Notice will not be reproduced in Admiralty Lists of Radio Signals or in Notices to Ship Wireless Stations.

Amendments will be published weekly in Section VI of Weekly Complete Editions, Admiralty Notices to Mariners (Corrections to Admiralty Lists of Radio Signals and Notices to Mariners 3, 3A and 3B).

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT MASTERS ENSURE THAT THIS NOTICE IS AVAILABLE TO AND UNDERSTOOD BY THEIR RADIO OFFICERS. AN EXTRA COPY IS SUPPLIED FOR THE USE OF RADIO OFFICERS.

GENERAL

This Notice describes an alternative organization to that described in Notice to Mariners 3 whereby official messages can be passed to Merchant ships.

2. This organization is known as the MERCASST System and will not be brought into force until so ordered by the Admiralty. It is an expansion of the GBMS organization which it would supersede, and provides for fuller world-wide coverage.

3. Each Area is covered by one High-powered shore Radio Station which broadcasts on low and/or high frequencies simultaneously on fixed schedules. Medium-power short range coastal radio stations also broadcast MERCASST messages to ships estimated to be within range. The initial call on 500 kcs will be followed by the operating signal directing a shift to the working frequency. After a brief interval the message will be broadcast. Messages will be broadcast immediately on receipt and will be repeated at the next single-operator period.

Details of special routines for United Kingdom 500 kcs Coastal Stations will be found under Area IV.

4. Details of the numbered MERCASST areas and particulars of the participating areas and coastal stations are shown later in this Order. Fuller details of the radio organization will be contained in a publication which will be issued to Merchant Ships when necessary.

LETTERED MESSAGES

5. General Messages issued by the Admiralty intended for Merchant Ships in all areas world-wide are identified by the word MERCASST followed by double letters in alphabetical sequence, e.g. :—

AA — AZ
BA — BZ

contained in the text.

In addition to these world-wide General Messages there are two other series of general messages. One is applicable to Merchant Ships in the Atlantic Ocean area only, and the other to Merchant Ships in the Pacific area only. These are known as the MERCASSTLANT and MERCASSTPAC Series respectively. These series are identified in the same manner as the world-wide series except that the letters will be prefixed by "MERCASSTLANT" and "MERCASSTPAC" as appropriate. Those messages which are not of an emergency or urgent nature will be disseminated to Naval Authorities who will deliver them to Masters upon arrival in port. Such general messages will contain the same identifying features as if they had been broadcast. When a MERCASST lettered message has been sent to the Naval Authorities for delivery the next MERCASST general message broadcast to ships at sea will contain information to this effect and indicate the identifying letters of such message. Merchant ships will thus be able to determine whether they have received all messages in each series.

CALL SIGNS

6. Collective call signs to which general messages concerning British ships will be addressed, are as follows :—

NUKO All ships guarding MERCASST.
NRMS All Allied Merchant Ships.
NRMS 1 to 13 All Allied Merchant Ships in Area indicated.
GBMS All British Merchant Ships.
GBMS 1 to 13 All British Merchant Ships in Area indicated.

Areas are those shown in the diagram attached; e.g.

NRMS 3 All Allied Merchant Ships in Mercasst Area III.