inadvertent activation of the button or buttons. If the satellite EPIRB is used as the secondary means of distress alerting and is not remotely activated, it shall be acceptable to have an additional EPIRB installed in the wheelhouse near the conning position.

5 In passenger ships, information on the ship's position shall be continuously and automatically provided to all relevant radiocommunication equipment to be included in the initial distress alert when the button or buttons on the distress panel is pressed.

6 In passenger ships, a distress alarm panel shall be installed at the conning position. The distress alarm panel shall provide visual and aural indication of any distress alert or alerts received on board and shall also indicate through which radiocommunication service the distress alerts have been received.

Regulation 7
Radio equipment: General

1 Every ship shall be provided with:

.1 a VHF radio installation capable of transmitting and receiving:

.1.1 DSC on the frequency 156.525 MHz (channel 70). It shall be possible to initiate the transmission of distress alerts on channel 70 from the position from which the ship is normally navigated;* and

.1.2 radiotelephony on the frequencies 156.300 MHz (channel 6), 156.650 MHz (channel 13) and 156.800 MHz (channel 16);

.2 a radio installation capable of maintaining a continuous DSC watch on VHF channel 70 which may be separate from, or combined with, that required by subparagraph 1.1;*

.3 a radar transponder capable of operating in the 9 GHz band, which:

.3.1 shall be so stowed that it can be easily utilized; and

.3.2 may be one of those required by regulation III/6.2.2 for a survival craft;

.4 a receiver capable of receiving international NAVTEX service broadcasts if the ship is engaged on voyages in any area in which an international NAVTEX service is provided;

.5 a radio facility for reception of maritime safety information by the Inmarsat enhanced group calling system† if the ship is

* Certain ships may be exempted from this requirement (see regulation 9.4).

† Refer to resolution A.701(17) concerning carriage of Inmarsat enhanced group call SafetyNET receivers under the GMDSS.

engaged on voyages in any area of Inmarsat coverage but in which an international NAVTEX service is not provided. However, ships engaged exclusively on voyages in areas where an HF direct-printing telegraphy maritime safety information service is provided and fitted with equipment capable of receiving such service, may be exempt from this requirement.*

.6 subject to the provisions of regulation 8.3, a satellite emergency position-indicating radio beacon (satellite EPIRB)† which shall be:

.6.1 capable of transmitting a distress alert either through the polar orbiting satellite service operating in the 406 MHz band or, if the ship is engaged only on voyages within Inmarsat coverage, through the Inmarsat geostationary satellite service operating in the 1.6 GHz band;‡

.6.2 installed in an easily accessible position;

.6.3 ready to be manually released and capable of being carried by one person into a survival craft;

.6.4 capable of floating free if the ship sinks and of being automatically activated when afloat; and

.6.5 capable of being activated manually.

2 Every passenger ship shall be provided with means for two-way on-scene radiocommunications for search and rescue purposes using the aeronautical frequencies 121.5 MHz and 123.1 MHz from the position from which the ship is normally navigated.

Regulation 8

Radio equipment: Sea area A1

1 In addition to meeting the requirements of regulation 7, every ship engaged on voyages exclusively in sea area A1 shall be provided with a radio installation capable of initiating the transmission of ship-to-shore distress alerts from the position from which the ship is normally navigated, operating either:

.1 on VHF using DSC; this requirement may be fulfilled by the EPIRB prescribed by paragraph 3, either by installing the EPIRB close to, or by remote activation from, the position from which the ship is normally navigated; or

* Refer to the Recommendation on promulgation of maritime safety information adopted by the Organization by resolution A.705(17).

† Refer to resolution A.616(15) concerning search and rescue homing capability.

‡ Subject to the availability of appropriate receiving and processing ground facilities for each ocean region covered by Inmarsat satellites.