

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

International VHF Radio Telephone System with 4-digits channel support

At the 104th session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC104) held in October 2021, MSC.1/Circ.1460/Rev.3 was introduced where it was announced that the implementation of the latest Radio Communication Regulations Appendix No.18, including 4-digit channel, will be effective at the first radio survey on or after January 1, 2024.

1. Implementation deadline

The first radio survey on or after January 1, 2024

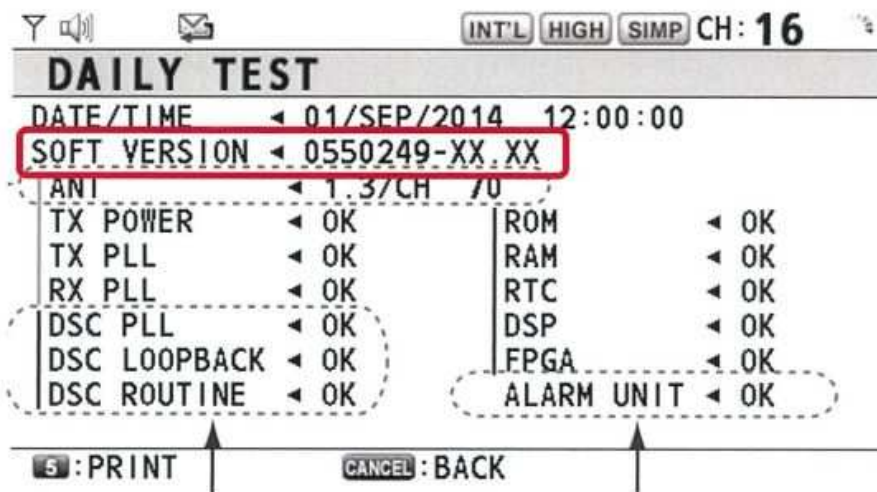
2. Status of Furuno equipment

Equipment	Status/Action	Note
FM-8500	Software to meet the requirement is not available. Solution is to retrofit with FM-8900S.	The spare parts had been obsoleted in August 2017.
FM-8700		The spare parts had been obsoleted in August 2017.
FM-8800S/D		The spare parts will be obsoleted in February 2023.
FM-8900S	Software upgrade is required.	Software version: lower than ver.4.01.
	No software upgrade is required.	Software version: ver.4.01 or higher

3. How to check the software version

Dairy-test on FM-8900S (Operation manual Chapter 7-1.)

Rotate the **CHANNEL/ENTER** knob to select [TEST] on the [MENU] screen then push the knob. The daily test starts. After the test is completed, the audio alarm sounds and the screen shown below appears. This screen shows:



4. Attachment

- Marine VHF Channel List
- MSC.1/Circ. 1460/Rev.3

APPX. MARINE VHF CHANNEL LIST

International (INT' L)

CH	TX (MHz)	RX (MHz)	Remarks	CH	TX (MHz)	RX (MHz)	Remarks
01	156.050	160.650	-	60	156.025	160.625	-
02	156.100	160.700	-	61	156.075	160.675	-
03	156.150	160.750	-	62	156.125	160.725	-
04	156.200	160.800	-	63	156.175	160.775	-
05	156.250	160.850	-	64	156.225	156.825	-
06	156.300	156.300	-	65	156.275	156.875	-
07	156.350	160.950	-	66	156.325	160.925	-
08	156.400	156.400	-	67	156.375	156.375	-
09	156.450	156.450	-	68	156.425	156.425	-
10	156.500	156.500	-	69	156.475	156.475	-
11	156.550	156.550	-	70	156.525	156.525	DSC
12	156.600	156.600	-	71	156.575	156.575	-
13	156.650	156.650	-	72	156.625	156.625	-
14	156.750	156.750	-	73	156.725	156.725	-
15	156.700	156.700	-	74	156.675	156.675	-
16	156.800	156.800	-	75	156.775	156.775	Low PWR
17	156.850	156.850	-	76	156.825	156.825	Low PWR
18	156.900	161.500	-	77	156.875	156.875	-
19	156.950	161.550	-	78	156.925	161.525	-
20	157.000	161.600	-	79	156.975	161.575	-
21	157.050	161.650	-	80	157.025	161.625	-
22	157.100	161.700	-	81	157.075	161.675	-
23	157.150	161.750	-	82	157.125	161.725	-
24	157.200	161.800	-	83	157.175	161.775	-
25	157.250	161.850	-	84	157.225	161.825	-
26	157.300	161.900	-	85	157.275	161.875	-
27	-	-	-	86	157.325	161.925	-
28	-	-	-	87	157.375	157.375	-
				88	157.425	157.425	-
1019	156.950	156.950	-	2019	(161.550)	161.550	RX only
1020	157.000	157.000	-	2020	(161.600)	161.600	RX only
1078	156.925	156.925	-	2078	(161.525)	161.525	RX only
1079	156.975	156.975	-	2079	(161.575)	161.575	RX only
1027	157.350	157.350	-				
1028	157.400	157.400	-				

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MSC.1/Circ.1460/Rev.3
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GUIDANCE ON THE VALIDITY OF RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT INSTALLED AND USED ON SHIPS

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its 104th session (4 to 8 October 2021), approved this circular, taking into account the recommendation of the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue at its eighth session (19 to 23 April 2021). The guidance in this circular recognizes that incompatibility may exist between VHF radiocommunication equipment installed on ships and on shore, and the revised frequencies and channelling arrangements for the maritime VHF bands as contained in appendix 18 to the ITU Radio Regulations (RR) – Edition 2020.

2 This circular replaces MSC.1/Circ.1460/Rev.2, which addressed both MF/HF radiocommunication equipment that is capable of operating narrow band direct-printing (NBDP) and VHF radiocommunication equipment. Since NBDP radiocommunication equipment will no longer be required under forthcoming amendments to SOLAS chapter IV, that equipment is not addressed in this circular.

3 The ITU World Radiocommunication Conferences in 2012, 2015 and 2019 made extensive changes to appendix 18 of the RR. While these changes do not affect the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), they do affect the use of other frequencies used for VHF meteorological, navigational and urgent marine information broadcasts, port operations and Vessel Traffic Service (VTS). According to the *Performance standards for shipborne VHF radio installations capable of communication and digital selective calling* (resolution A.803(19), as amended), VHF radiocommunication equipment should comply with the RR.

4 The *Guidance on procedures for updating shipborne navigation and communication equipment* (MSC.1/Circ.1389) notes that updates to application software and firmware to meet changes in IMO and ITU regulatory requirements are needed.

5 To ensure GMDSS communication capability and the availability of appropriate GMDSS radiocommunication equipment, and without prejudice to the arrangements contained in appendix 18 of the RR, VHF radiocommunication equipment should be updated so that following the first radio survey after 1 January 2024, at the earliest, it meets the arrangements which will be in force by then.

6 Member States are invited to bring this information to the attention of the appropriate national authorities and all other parties concerned.