The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau reminds mariners, manufacturers, and retailers that fixed mounted (non-portable) digital selective calling (DSC) equipment built to RTCM Standard SC-101 may no longer be manufactured, imported, sold or installed, beginning March 25, 2011. As of that date, the Commission’s Rules will prohibit the manufacture, importation, sale and installation of non-portable DSC radios that do not meet the requirements of International Telecommunication Union (ITU-R) Recommendation M.493–11 or higher, and, in the case of Class D VHF DSC equipment only, International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) International Standard 62238. Any such radio that is installed prior to March 25, 2011, however, may continue to be used.

In addition, beginning March 25, 2012, the Commission will no longer accept applications for certification of handheld, portable DSC equipment that does not meet the requirements of ITU-R Recommendation M.493–11 or higher and IEC 62238. The manufacture, importation, and sale of portable DSC-equipped radios not meeting these standards will be prohibited as of March 25, 2015.

Compliance with these new technical standards will ensure that DSC-equipped radios incorporate many new safety features and functions, and will eliminate the dangers associated with the automatic

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3 See 47 C.F.R. § 80.225(a)(3).

4 See 47 C.F.R. § 80.225(a)(5).

5 The new features also include provisions for making test calls, dual receiver functionality to improve operation, and Global Positioning System (GPS) interconnection alarms designed to ensure that distress alerts include a valid and accurate position. DSC equipment meeting the new requirements will provide improved detection of distress alerts, a reduced rate of false alarms, and a reduction in incessant alarming. See Amendment of Parts 13 and 80 of the Commission’s Rules Concerning Maritime Communications, Memorandum Opinion and Order, Third Report
channel switching feature on some current models of DSC-equipped radios, as addressed in a recent United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Alert.\footnote{See \url{http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pdf/SA0210.pdf}.}

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