PROMOTING AND VERIFYING CONTINUED FAMILIARIZATION OF
GMDSS OPERATORS ON BOARD SHIPS

1. The Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-first session (10 to 19 May 2006),
following the proposals made by the Sub-Committee on Standards of Training and Watchkeeping
at its thirty-seventh session, approved the recommendations concerning promoting and verifying
continued familiarization of GMDSS operators on board ships, set out in the attached annex.

2. Member Governments are invited to bring the anned recommendations to the attention
of all parties concerned for consideration and action, as appropriate.

***
ANNEX

PROMOTING AND VERIFYING CONTINUED FAMILIARIZATION OF GMDSS OPERATORS ON BOARD SHIPS

1 There has been concern that many GMDSS operators on board ships have a lack of familiarization regarding operational performance during Distress, Urgency and Safety communications, as well as with simple technical elements, which is vital for the safety of life at sea.

2 Taking into account the above concerns, it is recommended that:

.1 the ship’s safety management system should provide for all personnel who may be required to operate the GMDSS equipment to receive familiarization and ship-specific training, on joining the ship, and at appropriate intervals thereafter;

.2 familiarization, drills and onboard training of the GMDSS equipment should allow GMDSS operators to demonstrate their familiarization at any time;

.3 such familiarization should be verified during flag State inspections or port State control; and

.4 if such verification turns out to be negative, the Company should take appropriate measures according to the flag State Administration requirements.