

Guidance on radio equipment on barges

1. This guidance applies to radio equipment on lighters, barges and other floating material without independent means of propulsion, hereinafter referred to as barges. Barges are exempted from the requirements of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS).
2. The provisions on barges are stipulated in technical regulation no. 4 of 2 April 2003 issued by the Danish Maritime Authority on the construction and equipment, etc. of barges.
3. According to section 2 of the technical regulation, barges shall be designed, constructed and equipped, etc. in accordance with the provisions for a cargo or passenger ship of similar size and type where it is relevant to apply the said provisions. These provisions are the regulations stipulated in the following:
 - a) Notice B from the Danish Maritime Authority if the length (L) is 15 metres or more or if the scantling number (the length $L1^1$ multiplied by the breadth in metres) is 100 or more; and
 - b) Notice F from the Danish Maritime Authority if the length is up to 15 metres and if the scantling number is 20 or more, but below 100.
4. The extent of the requirement for radio equipment will depend on whether the barge is manned, whether the barge is permanently attached to a tug as well as on the GMDSS sea area. The following guidelines will be applied:
 - 1) Barges that are never manned shall be exempted from the requirement for radio equipment.
 - 2) Barges that are manned and permanently attached to a tug shall, as a minimum, be equipped with one VHF radio system.
 - 3) Barges that are manned and that are not permanently attached to a tug while at sea shall
 - a. be equipped with radio equipment at least for sea area A1 in accordance with Notice B or F from the Danish Maritime Authority;
 - b. for use at positions outside VHF connection with land (coastal radio, port office or the like) be equipped with radio equipment for sea area A2, A3 or A4;
 - c. keep a watch on DSC and keep a listening watch on VHF channel 16;
 - d. be manned with a person holding at least a ROC radio certificate if the barge is equipped with radio equipment for sea area A1; and
 - e. be manned with a person holding a GOC radio certificate if the barge is equipped with radio equipment for sea area A2, A3 or A4.

¹ The length L1 corresponds to the registered length as evident from the tonnage certificate.