

## **Recommended means for extracting stored data from voyage data recorders (VDRs) and simplified voyage data recorders (S-VDRs) for investigation authorities**

Recognising that there is a need for investigators to be able to download the stored data and playback the information from VDRs and S-VDRs, at its fifty-first session the IMO Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation (NAV) recommended the following:

**Section 1.** To enable accident investigators to make effective use of VDR and S-VDR data after an accident, it is essential for the investigators to be able to download the stored data and playback information without delay. However, there is at present no required interface in a VDR or S-VDR for use by investigators.

**Section 2.** To assist in achieving this aim, it is recommended that all VDR and S-VDR systems installed on or after 1 July 2006 be supplied with accessible means for extracting the stored data from the VDR or S-VDR to a laptop computer. If an existing installed VDR or S-VDR supports a data output port as per section 3(1) below, means should be provided for existing installations after 1 July 2007.

**Section 3.** Manufacturers should therefore be able to provide:

1. an output port providing data in an internationally recognised format, such as Ethernet, USB, FireWire or equivalent;
- .2 software compatible with an operating system available with commercial off-the-shelf laptop computers stored on a portable storage device such as a CD-ROM, DVD, USB-memory stick, etc.; and
- .3 instructions for executing the software and for connecting the laptop to the VDR/ S-VDR.

**Section 4.** The software should provide the capability to download the stored data and playback the information.

**Section 5.** The portable storage device, the instructions and any special parts necessary for the physical connection should be stored within the main unit of the VDR/S-VDR and made available for the exclusive use of the accident investigation authorities.

**Section 6.** If so requested, VDR/S-VDR manufacturers should make available download and playback software, including updates and ship-specific software, to investigation authorities.