§ 80.1114 False distress alerts.

The provisions of §§80.334 and 80.335 apply to false distress alerts.

§ 80.1115 Transmission of a distress alert by a station not itself in distress.

(a) A station in the mobile or mobile-satellite service which learns that a mobile unit is in distress must initiate and transmit a distress alert relay in any of the following cases:

1. When the mobile unit in distress is not itself in a position to transmit the distress alert; or
2. When the master or person responsible for the mobile unit not in distress or the person responsible for the land station determines that further help is necessary.

(b) A station transmitting a distress alert relay in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section or §80.1121(c) must indicate that it is not itself in distress.

§ 80.1117 Procedure for receipt and acknowledgement of distress alerts.

(a) Normally, distress calls received using digital selective calling are only acknowledged using a DSC acknowledgement by a coast station. Ships should delay any acknowledgement in order to give sufficient time for a coast station to acknowledge the call. In cases where no acknowledgement has been heard and no distress traffic has been heard, the ship should transmit a distress alert relay to the coast station. Upon advice from the Rescue Coordination Center, the ship may transmit a DSC acknowledgement call to stop it from being repeated. Acknowledgement by digital selective calling of receipt of a distress alert in the terrestrial services must comply with ITU–R M.541–9 (incorporated by reference, see §80.7).

(b) Acknowledgement through a satellite of receipt of a distress alert from a ship earth station must be sent immediately (see §80.1119).

(c) Acknowledgement by radiotelephony of receipt of a distress alert from a ship station or a ship earth station must be given in the following form:

1. The distress signal MAYDAY;
2. The call sign or other identification of the station sending the distress message, spoken three times;
3. The words THIS IS (or DE spoken as DELTA ECHO in case of language difficulties);
4. The call sign or other identification of the station acknowledging receipt, spoken three times;
5. The word RECEIVED (or RRR spoken as ROMEO ROMEO ROMEO in case of language difficulties);
6. The distress signal MAYDAY.