

Guidelines for Navigation and Radio Communication Equipment Maintenance

Japan Marine Equipment Association Navigation Equipment Group

Unlike production of consumer equipment and automobiles, production of navigation and radio communication equipment used in the maritime industry could be described as “multi-product and low-volume”. In addition, with the rapid innovation in technology taking place today, there have been dramatic changes in and obsolescence of the parts - especially electrical and electronic parts - which comprise such equipment and the period of availability relating to these key components from parts manufacturers has been declining every year.

Under these circumstances it has been a challenge for equipment manufacturers to secure parts necessary for repair work in carrying out product maintenance and there have been cases where the problem has hampered this task within relatively short timeframes after discontinuation of equipment production, greatly inconveniencing users in the process.

This policy, “Guidelines for Navigation and Radio Communication Equipment Maintenance” (see Note) and related arrangements and preparations have been developed and established by our Group in effort to minimize this problem and provide assurance to equipment users.

Note: This policy applies to the products for ocean-going and coastal vessels only and does not apply to the products for fishing and pleasure crafts.

Applicable Equipment

In principle, this policy includes all types of navigation and radio communication equipment for ocean-going and coastal vessels but excludes the following categories.

- a. Equipment manufactured to special customer specifications.
- b. Certain equipment such as satellite system-based emergency position indicating radio beacons (satellite EPIRB), etc., which has less than a 10-year service life.
- c. Equipment which utilizes consumer products such as personal computers, etc.

Maintenance Support

Maintenance support should be assured on all equipment for a minimum period of ten years from the end of production. In addition, ongoing maintenance support should be provided beyond this period, depending on the availability of the parts necessary for equipment repair. In cases where such parts are no longer readily procurable and if requested by the user, the equipment manufacturer should consult with the user regarding relevant aspects such as delivery and pricing of the required parts in coping with this issue on an individual basis.

However there may be unavoidable circumstances where maintenance support on equipment cannot be provided because of the unavailability of the required parts or other factors.

Information Disclosure

Information pertaining to discontinuation of specific equipment and maintenance periods should be provided as appropriate on the equipment manufacturer’s website, in instruction manuals, etc.

Prior information should be furnished in cases where the manufacturer may be unable to provide maintenance support on equipment because of the unavailability of the required parts or other factors.

Other

These Guidelines have been established in agreement with each member company and reflects the views of the Group. These Guidelines do not in any way compel individual companies to deal with individual cases, nor are they intended to bind the companies in any manner.
