

Alternative Compliance and Safety Agreement  
for H & G Trawl & Longline Vessels

**L. Emergency Communications and Navigation**

*Analysis: These standards institute particular requirements to preserve positive administrative controls relative to discharge of fixed fire fighting systems. It also implements use of GMDSS and AIS equipment. This is not a classification issue, but meets or exceeds current inspected vessel standards.*

1. For vessels where it is the policy to notify the master of the vessel prior to discharging the vessel's fixed fire fighting system into the engine room, vessel owners shall install an independently powered emergency communication system between the wheelhouse and the controls to the fixed fire fighting system, to allow immediate emergency notification communication to the wheelhouse.

2. Each vessel must have clear procedures, signed by the master and chief engineer explaining the conditions under which fixed extinguishing systems are to be used and responsibilities of all involved parties. These procedures should be included in monthly drills.

3. Emergency handheld radios may be used to meet this requirement, so long as the radios are stowed upon the bridge and at the controls to the fixed fire fighting system.

4. Global Maritime Distress Signal System (GMDSS): All vessels enrolled in the alternative compliance agreement shall be in compliance with Coast Guard Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular 3-99.

5. Automatic Information System (AIS): In accordance with 33 CFR 164.46, all vessels shall be equipped with a properly installed and operational AIS system.