

Updated information
Regarding the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Alert

**AUTOMATIC CHANNEL SWITCHING ON DSC-EQUIPPED
RADIOS**

Manufacturers

Manufacturers of DSC-equipped VHF marine radios believed to be affected by this Safety Alert include, but are not limited to the following (rebranded radios are not included unless otherwise identified):

BH T&A Company
Garmin *
ICOM Incorporated
Lowrance
Midland
Northstar
Pony Electric Corporation
Raytheon Anschuetz GmbH High Seas Products
Raymarine, Inc. *
SEA Inc of Delaware
Samyung ENC. Company, LTD
SIMRAD, Inc
SKANTI G/S
SP Radio A/S
Standard Horizon *
Tekcom Industries, LTD
Uniden America Corporation *
Vertex Standard Company, LTD

** These manufacturers are known to have models with a channel auto-switch disabling feature. Other manufacturers may or may not a disabling feature.*

Check the operating manual instructions on how to receive a DSC distress call to determine if a means exist to disable automatic channel switching.

Auto-Switching Requirements in DSC Standards ([see also 47 CFR 80.225](#))

ITU-R Recommendation M.493-11 (2004) and later versions:

12.5 Disabling of DSC automatic channel switching function on VHF

Automatic switching to a subsequent communications channel on receipt of a DSC call might in some cases disrupt important ongoing communications. Where such capability exists, a means for disabling that function should therefore be provided for all calls other than individual station calls of category distress or urgency. The DSC equipment should provide visual indication that the automatic switching function is disabled.

ITU-R Recommendation M.493-12 (2007) and later versions:

Annex 4 Section 3.1.3 Tuning the radio

3.1.3.1 Tuning of the general receiver and transmitter for reception or transmission of required acknowledgments, repeat transmissions, relays, or subsequent communications should be handled automatically.

3.1.3.2 Any automated tuning action that could potentially disrupt ongoing subsequent communications should provide the operator with at least a 10 s warning. The operator should then be provided with the opportunity to pause the action. In the absence of operator intervention the automated action should proceed.

IEC 62238 (2003) VHF radiotelephone equipment incorporating Class "D" Digital Selective Calling (DSC) – Methods of testing and required test results

From Section 4.4:

Where the capability for automatically switching a radiotelephone channel on receipt of a DSC call exists, a means for disabling that capability should be provided. This capability should be provided for all calls other than individual station calls of category distress or urgency.

ETSI EN 300 338-3 V1.1.1 (2010-02) Electromagnetic compatibility and Radio spectrum Matters (ERM); Technical characteristics and methods of measurement for equipment for generation, transmission and reception of Digital Selective Calling (DSC) in the maritime MF, MF/HF and/or VHF mobile service; Part 3: Class D DSC

From Section 6.9.2.1:

If the equipment is engaged on a call and a DSC call is received with a higher priority than the current call the equipment will display the call information of the new call and present the operator with the following options:

- a) accept the call; or
- b) log the call.

A discrete audible alarm will sound. The radio will not change to any channel specified in the new call unless the operator manually accepts the new call.

Updated: May 13, 2010

Source: USCG Headquarters CG-652