

IOC Circular Letter No 3006

(also available in French, Russian and Spanish)

IOC/VR/NO/pbo

27 September 2024

To : Tsunami National Contacts (TNCs), National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWCs) and Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs) of ICG/CARIBE-EWS, ICG/IOTWMS, ICG/NEAMTWS and ICG/PTWS

C.c. : Chairpersons and Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs): CATAAC, CENALT, INATEWS, INGV, IPMA, ITEWS, JATWC, KOERI, NOA, NWPTAC, PTWC, SCSTAC)
Tsunami Information Centres (CTIC, IOTIC, ITIC, NEAMTIC)
Chairpersons of TOWS-WG and of Inter-ICG Task Teams
Permanent Delegates / Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States
IOC Officers

Subject: Cessation of fax transmissions of tsunami information products by Tsunami Service Providers by 31 March 2025

Last June, the IOC Executive Council noted the increasing failure in reception and costs associated with the use of fax transmissions as a mean of disseminating and receiving tsunami threat information products sent by Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs). Following the recommendations of the IOC Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards related to Sea Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG), the Council requested the IOC Secretariat to inform all Member States, by circular letter, that fax transmissions of tsunami information products by TSPs will be phased out from six months to the date of this letter, unless Member States advise within three months that fax transmission is essential for the functions of their National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC).

Accordingly, I invite Tsunami National Contacts (TNC), Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP) and NTWCs to report to the Secretariat in case stopping the transmission of tsunami products from TSPs by fax would be detrimental to NTWCs or TWFPs in fulfilling their functions. It should be remembered that TSP products are distributed to NTWCs and TWFPs through additional communication channels, such as e-mail and Global Telecommunication System (GTS). If you consider that none of these means can replace fax transmission, please inform the secretariat, in the person of Bernardo Aliaga, Head of the Tsunami Resilience Section (b.aliaga@unesco.org) with copies to Ocal Necmioglu (o.necmioglu@unesco.org) and Angelos Haidar (a.haidar@unesco.org), before 31 December 2024. The Secretariat will inform the TSPs concerned accordingly.

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Thanking you in advance for your cooperation, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Vidar Helgesen
Executive Secretary