



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974

Committee II  
Agenda item 2

IMCO

RECOMMENDATION BY COMMITTEE II ON USE OF UNITS  
IN THE 1974 SAFETY CONVENTION

1. It was agreed, because of the size of the overall task, that the metric as well as the imperial units as appearing in the 1960 Convention and in adopted amendments thereto should be retained in the 1974 Convention in all cases where other figures and units have not been explicitly stipulated.
2. The Committee was, however, of the opinion that future efforts should be directed towards utilization of only the metric system. Bearing in mind the activities in other international bodies concerning the introduction of the "Système International d'Unités, this system should also be studied by the Organization with a view to acceptance as and when appropriate.
3. In the future there would in some cases appear to be merit in using metric units different from the metric units presently used. In such cases the recommended principles appearing in paragraph 4 below should be taken into account, and conversions should be carried out with adequate precision and accuracy.
4. The recommended principles for the use of units are as follows:
  - (a) Power. Engine power output should be given in kW.
  - (b) Unit of pressure should be  $\text{kg/cm}^2$ .
  - (c) Units of length should be metres or millimetres, except for nautical miles.
  - (d) Units of weight should be kg or metric ton (= 1000 kg).

The operative paragraphs of the Resolution covering the subject is attached at Appendix.

APPENDIX

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON RECOMMENDATION OF THE USE OF  
SYSTEM OF UNITS IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR  
THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA

(OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS)

THE CONFERENCE,

AGREEING that in the future only one system of units should be used in the Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea,

RECOGNIZING that it was at the present point in time impracticable to eliminate imperial units from the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974,

RECOMMENDS that the Organization in its future work should bear in mind the desirability of expressing values preferably in the metric system of units only, as well as the desirability of expressing unit values in round figures where this can be done without prejudice to existing standards or commercially accepted practices,

INVITES the Organization to study also the "Système International d'Unités" taking into account the efforts of other international bodies concerning the introduction of this system, with a view to its use in the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea as and when appropriate.

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