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CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION



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**IMCO**

ASSEMBLY - 4th extraordinary session  
Agenda item 9

GUIDELINES ON THE EVALUATION OF FIRE  
HAZARD PROPERTIES OF MATERIALS

RESOLUTION A.166(ES.IV)

adopted on 28 November 1968

THE ASSEMBLY,

NOTING Article 16(i) of the IMCO Convention concerning  
the function of the Assembly,

NOTING ALSO Recommendation 11 of the International  
Conference on Safety of Life at Sea, 1960,

DESIRING to ensure uniformity in evaluating fire hazard  
properties of materials,

HAVING CONSIDERED the Guidelines adopted by the Maritime  
Safety Committee at its seventeenth session,

RECOMMENDS that until such time as further technical studies  
have been completed leading to uniformity of test procedure,  
Administrations should apply the following guidelines in  
deciding the flame-spread characteristics of surface and  
finishing materials:

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- (a) In evaluating the flame-spread of material, Administrations should employ the national test method commonly used for building materials provided the procedure is considered capable of providing information on the behaviour of surfaces under fire conditions which may be met in an actual fire aboard ship;
- (b) only materials which demonstrate good performance according to national classification should be considered to satisfy the property of "low flame-spread" for shipboard use;
- (c) materials should not be regarded as having a satisfactory "low flame-spread" characteristic if they release any significant quantity of smoke during testing. Administrations are encouraged to establish or adapt test procedures to measure and rate the property of smoke emission;
- (d) as regards toxicity, fire testing laboratories are generally not equipped at present to evaluate this property. Administrations should bring to bear on this problem facilities in the field of medical science. No guidelines can be offered to assist in the determination of toxicity, but Administrations should be aware that the measures taken in manufacturing to improve "low flame-spread" in some cases tend to increase toxicity in the material produced.

REQUESTS the Maritime Safety Committee to continue the study on this subject,

AUTHORIZES the Maritime Safety Committee to amend the guidelines as necessary in the light of the results of such study.

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