

RESOLUTION A.279 (VIII) adopted on 20 November 1973
RECOMMENDATION ON EMERGENCY POSITION-INDICATING RADIO BEACONS

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MARITIME
CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION



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THE ASSEMBLY,

NOTING Article 16(i) of the Convention on the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly,

RECOGNIZING that emergency position-indicating radio beacons will improve safety of life at sea by greatly facilitating search and rescue,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the various provisions and recommendations concerning the carriage and use of this equipment,

HAVING EXAMINED the Report of the Maritime Safety Committee on its twenty-fifth session,

BEARING IN MIND the following requirements concerning the function and use of emergency position-indicating radio beacons:

- (a) Resolution A.91(IV), which provides that emergency position-indicating radio beacons are intended primarily for homing. They may, however, be used for alerting in appropriate circumstances;
- (b) Article 36 of the Radio Regulations, according to which the essential purpose of the emergency position-indicating radio beacon signals is to facilitate determining the position of survivors in search and rescue operations;
- (c) Resolution A.225(VII), which strongly recommends that all search and rescue aircraft be equipped with direction finders of sufficient sensitivity and frequency coverage to permit homing on transmissions of all internationally recognized radio beacons,

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RECALLING the following decisions related to the carriage of radio beacons:

- (a) Resolution A.217(VII) to which Recommendation 48 of the International Conference on Safety of Life at Sea, 1960, relates, by which Administrations are recommended to require all ships and vessels where appropriate to be equipped with emergency position-indicating radio beacons operating on the most appropriate radio frequency/ies;
- (b) the decision of the Maritime Safety Committee at its twenty-fourth session, endorsing the view that this device should not be considered a substitute for portable radio apparatus for survival craft as specified in Regulation 13 of Chapter IV of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1960,

NOTING that provisions concerning frequencies and technical characteristics for this equipment have been agreed as follows:

- (a) allocation of the frequencies 2182 kHz, 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz and the type of signals for each kind of radio beacon, contained in the Radio Regulations;
- (b) Resolution A.91(IV), which recommends the frequency 2182 kHz as a first choice operational frequency for radio beacons;
- (c) the technical characteristics of radio beacons operating on the frequency 2182 kHz, contained in Article 36 and Appendix 20A of the Radio Regulations, and in CCIR Recommendation 439;
- (d) Resolution No. MAR 7 of the Radio Regulations, prescribing that emergency position-indicating radio beacons operating on the frequencies 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz shall comply with the relevant recommendations and standards of ICAO and CCIR;
- (e) the International Telecommunication Union World Administrative Radio Conference for Space Telecommunications (1971) has allocated the frequency band 406 - 406.1 MHz to the mobile-satellite service (earth-to-space) solely for the use and development of low-power (not to exceed 5 watts) emergency position-indicating radio beacon systems using space techniques,

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STRESSING AGAIN the urgent need for unification of the characteristics of radio beacon signals, as expressed in Resolution A.127(V),

RESOLVES to recommend that Contracting Governments take into account the provisions and Recommendations referred to above when preparing national regulations for the carriage and use of emergency position-indicating radio beacons.

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