

RESOLUTION A.288(VIII) adopted on 20 November 1973  
RECOMMENDATION ON THE SAFE STOWAGE OF SECURING  
OF CONTAINERS ON DECK ON VESSELS WHICH ARE NOT  
SPECIALLY DESIGNED AND FITTED FOR THE PURPOSE  
OF CARRYING CONTAINERS



ASSEMBLY - 8th session  
Agenda item 10

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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,

HAVING CONSIDERED the Report of the Maritime Safety Committee on its  
twenty-seventh session,

HAVING NOTED that the Committee's Recommendation had been already brought  
to the attention of Member Governments by MSC/Circular 141 of 3 May 1973,

RESOLVES

- (a) to adopt the Recommendation the text of which is annexed hereto,
- (b) to invite governments to give effect to the Recommendation.

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ANNEX

RECOMMENDATION  
ON  
THE SAFE STOWAGE AND SECURING OF CONTAINERS ON  
DECK ON VESSELS WHICH ARE NOT SPECIALLY DESIGNED AND  
FITTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING CONTAINERS

THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE,

RECOGNIZING that containers have been developed for use in a through transportation system including the use of special purpose container vessels,

NOTING that these containers are being carried safely, under certain conditions, on vessels which are not normally fitted with securing arrangements generally found in special purpose container vessels,

CONSIDERS that particular attention must be given to the stowage and securing of such containers when carried on deck,

RECOMMENDS that governments issue advice concerning the carriage of containers on deck on such vessels,

FURTHER RECOMMENDS that such advice should include the following basic principles:

- (a) containers carried on deck or on hatches should be stowed preferably in a fore and aft direction;
- (b) containers should be stowed so that they do not extend over the vessel's side. Adequate supports should be provided when containers overhang hatches or deck structures;
- (c) containers should be stowed and secured so as to permit safe access for personnel in the necessary working of the vessel;
- (d) all containers should be effectively secured, preferably at the bottom corners, in a way which will guard against sliding. Restraint against tipping should be effected by securing the top or bottom corners as may be practicable;
- (e) containers carried on deck or hatches should be carried one high unless the upper containers are so secured that they cannot slide or tip;

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- (f) under normal conditions no restraint system should impose on containers or any of their fittings forces in excess of those for which they have been designed;
  - (g) at no time should the containers overstress the deck or hatches; the hatch covers should be so secured to the vessel that tipping of the entire hatch cover is prevented;
  - (h) the structural strength of the deck or hatch components should be taken into consideration when containers are carried thereon and when locating and affixing securing devices.
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