

RESOLUTION A.600(15) adopted on 19 November 1987
IMO SHIP IDENTIFICATION NUMBER SCHEME



ASSEMBLY - 15th session
Agenda item 12

IMO

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THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 15(j) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly in relation to regulations and guidelines concerning maritime safety and the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships,

BELIEVING that the enhancement of maritime safety and pollution prevention and the prevention of maritime fraud could be facilitated if a permanent identification number were assigned to a ship which would remain unchanged upon transfer of its flag and would be inserted on ships' certificates,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendation made by the Maritime Safety Committee at its fifty-fourth session,

1. ADOPTS the IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme, for implementation on a voluntary basis, as set out in the Annex to the present resolution;
2. INVITES Governments concerned to implement the scheme as far as is practicable, and to inform IMO of measures taken in this respect;
3. REQUESTS the Maritime Safety Committee to keep the scheme under review for further improvement as may be necessary.

ANNEX

IMO SHIP IDENTIFICATION NUMBER SCHEME

INTRODUCTION

1 The purpose of the scheme is to enhance maritime safety and pollution prevention and to facilitate the prevention of maritime fraud. It is not intended to prejudice matters of liability, civil law or other commercial considerations in the operation of a ship. The scheme may be applied by Administrations on a voluntary basis for new and existing ships, under their flag, engaged in international voyages. Administrations may also wish to assign the IMO numbers to ships engaged solely on domestic voyages and to insert the number in the national certificates.

APPLICATION

2 The scheme applies to seagoing ships of 100 gross tonnage and above, with the exception of the following:

- vessels solely engaged in fishing;
- ships without mechanical means of propulsion;
- pleasure yachts;
- ships engaged on special service*;
- hopper barges;
- hydrofoils, hovercraft;
- floating docks and structures classified in a similar manner;
- ships of war and troop ships; and
- wooden ships in general.

* For example, lightships, floating radio stations, search and rescue vessels.

ASSIGNMENT OF IMO NUMBER

3 The IMO number is a Lloyd's Register (LR) number, allocated at the time of build or when a ship is first included in the register, with the prefix IMO (e.g. IMO 8712345). Administrations which have decided to implement the scheme are invited to assign all appropriate ships flying their flags, or cause them to be assigned, the IMO numbers and to insert them on ships' certificates.

4 For new ships, the assignment of the IMO number should be made when the ship is registered. For existing ships, the assignment of the IMO number should be made at an early convenient date, such as when the renewal survey is completed or new certificates are issued.

5 Administrations implementing the scheme are invited to inform the Organization accordingly, for circulation to other Governments.

6 Official publications and other information from LR and Lloyd's Maritime Information Services (LMIS) are sources for referencing the identification number. If the particulars of a ship do not correspond to those shown in the Register of Ships and its supplement because, for example, the ship had changed its name, or the port State control officer had doubts as to whether the numbers given on the certificates were genuine, further clarification may be sought from Lloyd's Register, the IMO Secretariat or the flag State.

CERTIFICATES ON WHICH THE IMO NUMBER IS TO BE INSERTED

7 The IMO number should be inserted on a ship's Certificate of Registry which includes the particulars identifying the ship, and on all certificates issued under IMO Conventions when and where appropriate. It is recommended that the IMO number also be inserted in other certificates, such as classification certificates, Suez and Panama tonnage certificates, when and where appropriate. The IMO number should preferably be included in the box headed "Distinctive number or letters" in addition to the call sign.

HOW TO OBTAIN THE IMO NUMBER

8 The following information indicates how IMO numbers can be obtained for both new and existing ships.

New ships (on order and under construction)

9 The IMO number can be obtained by one of the following methods:

.1 Inquiries addressed to the Maritime Information Publishing Group of LR, by telex or facsimile*. In making such inquiry the following particulars, if possible, should be presented:

- Shipyard and yard number or hull number
- Ship name (if known)
- GT/DWT
- Keel-laid date
- Owner, operator/manager and flag
- Basic ship-type**
- Name and address of inquirer.

Based on the above information, LR will provide the necessary IMO number free of charge. If there are no data in the LR new construction file on the ship concerning which the inquiry is made, a new record on that ship will be created and the LR number will be assigned.

* Telex 888379 Telefax (Fax) No. 01-4884796(GpIII)

** Basic ship-types used by LR include:

Passenger	Ferry	General cargo
Specialized cargo	Cellular container	Ro-ro cargo
Bulk	Specialized bulk	Ore carrier
Gas tanker	Gas carrier	Tanker
Specialized tanker	Tug	Factory
Dredger	Sand carrier	ORSV/Supply

or any combination of these types.

- .2 On-line access to the new construction file through SEADATA (IMO has access to this system).
- .3 Application through LMIS which will provide a service of regular listings of the order book with selected data items, produced for a client's specification.

Existing ships

10 The following methods are available for obtaining the IMO number:

- .1 The Register of Ships and the 11 cumulative monthly supplements to it published by Lloyd's Register. It is published in 3 volumes and lists details of over 76,000 merchant ships.
- .2 The weekly list of alterations to the Register of Ships (non-cumulative) produced by Lloyd's Register.
- .3 On-line access to the Lloyd's Register Ship Particulars File through the SEADATA system (IMO has access to this system).

11 For existing ships, LR is prepared to answer ad hoc requests free of charge up to a reasonable point of acceptability.

12 Any information on charges for services mentioned in paragraphs 9 and 10 may be obtained from Lloyd's Register of Shipping.

Inquiry to the IMO Secretariat

13 The IMO number may be obtained free of charge from the IMO Secretariat* which has access to the SEADATA system. In making such an inquiry to the IMO Secretariat, information on particulars of the ship (as in paragraph 9.1) should be provided in writing.

* Telex 23588 Telefax (Fax) No. 5873210

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