

RESOLUTION A.707(17) adopted on 6 November 1991  
CHARGES FOR DISTRESS, URGENCY AND SAFETY MESSAGES  
THROUGH THE INMARSAT SYSTEM

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME  
ORGANIZATION



IMO

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Agenda item 10

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CHARGES FOR DISTRESS, URGENCY AND SAFETY MESSAGES  
THROUGH THE INMARSAT SYSTEM

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,

RECALLING ALSO resolution 2 adopted by the International Conference on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, which recommends that States should arrange that participation in ship reporting systems shall be free of message cost to the ships concerned,

RECALLING FURTHER resolution 6 adopted by the 1988 Conference of Contracting Governments to SOLAS 1974 on the global maritime distress and safety system which requests the Maritime Safety Committee to review funding arrangements prior to the implementation date of the GMDSS,

BEARING IN MIND that the existing terrestrial maritime radiocommunication services for distress, urgency and safety messages are free of charge to shipping,

NOTING that INMARSAT accounts with its coast earth station operators for all communications other than the initial distress call and message,

NOTING ALSO that the Joint IMO/INMARSAT Meeting on Funding for Maritime Distress and Safety Communications (4 to 7 December 1990) made further recommendations regarding the treatment of INMARSAT space segment charges as shown in the service/charging matrix for distress and safety communications through the INMARSAT system, set out in the annex to the present resolution, as well as, review arrangements,

NOTING FURTHER that the thirty-eighth session of the INMARSAT Council had agreed to the recommendations of the Director-General of INMARSAT regarding the treatment of maritime distress and safety communications which were based on the service/charging matrix set out in the annex to the present resolution,

W/4043x/EWP

FURTHER NOTING that the charges to ships and land subscribers for communication services provided via the INMARSAT system are established by national telecommunication entities in conformity with national policies and practices,

RECOGNIZING the advantages of the INMARSAT service for distress, urgency and safety purposes,

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that funding arrangements remain to be agreed at national level for coast earth stations and landline charges related to the traffic covered by the recommendations of the Joint IMO/INMARSAT Meeting,

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

1. RECOMMENDS that States having coast earth stations under their jurisdiction arrange that the following transmissions through the INMARSAT system shall be free of charge:

- ship-to-shore and shore-to-ship distress traffic;
- urgent ship-to-shore navigational and meteorological danger reports using record communications; and
- medical assistance for persons in grave and imminent danger;

2. RECOMMENDS ALSO that States make every effort, consistent with domestic laws and policies, to arrange that meteorological reports, ship position reports and medical advice and assistance messages other than those referred to in paragraph 1, transmitted through the INMARSAT system, shall be free of charge to shipping;

3. RECOMMENDS FURTHER that States should put suitable arrangements in place for the treatment of coast earth station and landline charges prior to the entry into force of the 1988 SOLAS amendments to introduce the GMDSS on 1 February 1992;

4. REVOKES resolution A.523(13).

Recommendations of Joint IMO/INMARSAT Meeting

INMARSAT Council decisions

Current coast earth station (CES) practice (7)

Service	Charge to originator? (1)	Charge to addressee? (1)	Space segment (2)		
<u>SHIP-TO-SHORE</u>					
(a) Distress alerts	No	No	No charge	No space segment charge	No CES charges
(b) SAR co-ordination (including communications subsequent to initial distress alerts)	No	No	No charge for voice or record (10) calls to associated RCCs via Code 39 (4)	Reduced INMARSAT-A space segment charge for calls to associated RCCs (8). Calls to other RCCs are charged at the standard space segment rate	One CES makes no charge to ships via Code 39 as these costs are funded by Governments. All other CESs charge at the standard rate
(c) Meteorological reports	No (3)	Yes	Standard INMARSAT-A, INMARSAT-C, or INMARSAT-C short data report charge	Currently charged at the standard space segment rate	Several CESs make no charge to ships via Code 41 as these costs are funded by Governments. Other CESs charge at the standard rate. Some CESs have announced end-user charges of around US\$0.10 for INMARSAT-C short data reports (9)
(d) Urgent navigational/ meteorological danger reports	No (3)	No	No charge via record (10) communications using Code 42	Reduced INMARSAT-A space segment charge via telex/ teletype record comms using Code 42(8). Other reports charged at the applicable standard space segment rate	Two CESs make no charge to ships as these costs are funded by Governments. Other CESs charge at the standard rate

SERVICE/CHARGING MATRIX FOR DISTRESS AND SAFETY  
COMMUNICATIONS THROUGH THE INMARSAT SYSTEM

ANNEX

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Recommendations of Joint IMO/INMARSAT Meeting

INMARSAT Council decisions

Current coast earth station (CES) practice (7)

Service

Charge to  
originator? (1)

Charge to  
addressee? (1)

Space  
segment (2)

SHIP-TO-SHORE

(e) Ship reports	No (3)	Yes	Standard INMARSAT-A, INMARSAT-C, or INMARSAT-C short data report charge	Currently charged at the standard space segment rate	Several CESs accept position reports at no charge to ships via Code 43 as these costs are funded by Governments. Other CESs charge at the standard rate. Some CESs have announced end-user charges of around US\$0.10 for INMARSAT-C short data reports (9)
(f) Medical advice	No (5)	Yes	Special INMARSAT-A and INMARSAT-C charges via Code 32. Other requests for medical advice at standard charges levied on the originator or the addressee, as may be decided by the Administration	Currently charged at the standard space segment rate	Several CESs make no charge to ships via Code 32 as these costs are funded by Governments. Other CESs charge at the standard rate
(g) Medical assistance for grave and imminent danger	No	No	No charge via Code 38 to an agency recognized by Administrations. Other requests for medical assistance at standard charges levied on the originator or the addressee, as may be decided by the Administration	Currently charged at the standard space segment rate	Several CESs make no charge to ships via Code 38 as these costs are funded by Governments. Other CESs charge at the standard rate

Recommendations of Joint IMO/INMARSAT Meeting

INMARSAT Council decisions

Current coast earth station (CES) practice (7)

Service	Charge to originator? (1)	Charge to addressee? (1)	Space segment (2)		
<u>SHORE-TO-SHIP</u>					
(a) Distress alerts	No	No	No charge	No space segment charge (8)	Not known
(b) SAR co-ordination (including communications subsequent to initial distress alerts)	No	No	No charge for voice or record communications from associated RCCs to ships and when relating to the immediate assistance required by a ship in distress and in grave and imminent danger	Reduced space segment charge for calls from associated RCCs (8)	Not known
(c) Meteorological forecast	Yes	-	Standard (6) SafetyNET (TM) charge	SafetyNET(TM) space segment charge	Several CESs have indicated end-user charges in the vicinity of \$US 0.50 per k bit
(d) Meteorological warnings	Yes	-	Standard (6) SafetyNET (TM) charge	SafetyNET(TM) space segment charge	Several CESs have indicated end-user charges in the vicinity of \$US 0.50 per k bit
(e) Navigational warnings	Yes	-	Standard (6) SafetyNET (TM) charge	SafetyNET(TM) space segment charge	Several CESs have indicated end-user charges in the vicinity of \$US 0.50 per k bit

Recommendations of Joint IMO/INMARSAT Meeting

INMARSAT Council decisions

Current coast earth  
station (CES) practice (7)

Service

Charge to originator? (1)	Charge to addressee? (1)	Space segment (2)
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SHORE-TO-SHIP

(f) Other urgent  
messages

Yes	-	Standard (6) SafetyNET (TM) charge
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SafetyNET(TM) space  
segment charge

Several CESs have indicated  
end-user charges in the  
vicinity of \$US 0.50  
per k bit

(g) Medical advice

Yes	No	Standard
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(h) Medical  
assistance

No	No	No charge for calls from agencies recognized by Administrations
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Notes

- (1) Space segment and coast earth station elements only; excludes landline charges.
- (2) See definitions of charges.
- (3) No charge to originator if sent via record communications.
- (4) In the unlikely event of difficulty in securing a connection, ships may use priority 3 at no charge.
- (5) Only to recognized medical authorities.
- (6) Via SafetyNET(TM).
- (7) Subject to confirmation by individual CES owners.
- (8) Not yet implemented.
- (9) INMARSAT-C short data reports consist of up to 32 bytes of binary encoded user information. Data formats have been developed for meteorological and ship position reports.
- (10) Record is defined as all types of INMARSAT communications other than those via voice channels.

INMARSAT two-digit codes for safety services

Abbreviated dialling codes have been established in the INMARSAT system, for use by CESs which desire to use them, to enable automatic routing of specific types of calls from ships to the appropriate addresses. The following 2-digit codes pertain to safety services:

- 32 - Request for medical advice
- 38 - Request for medical assistance
- 39 - Request for maritime assistance
- 41 - Shipment of meteorological data
- 42 - Shipment of meteorological data and navigational dangers
- 43 - Ship reports

Definitions (space segment only)

No charge

No charges are levied by INMARSAT. INMARSAT will absorb the costs.

Standard charge

Standard space segment utilization charges for the particular INMARSAT service which are levied by INMARSAT on coast earth station operators.

Special charge

Special space segment utilization charges levied by INMARSAT on coast earth station operators and at a lower tariff than standard charges.

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