



INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MARITIME  
CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION



IMCO



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ASSEMBLY - 4th session  
Agenda item 6

INTERNATIONAL CODE OF SIGNALS

RESOLUTION A.80 (IV)

adopted on 27 September 1965

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Resolution A.3(I) whereby the Assembly decided that the Organization should assume all the functions then being performed by the International Code of Signals Committee and requested the Maritime Safety Committee to assume the duties of providing the necessary machinery in accordance with Article 29(b) of the IMCO Convention;

TAKING NOTE with satisfaction that the Maritime Safety Committee, at its tenth session (MSC X/36, paragraphs 31-34) was able to approve a revised Code of Signals;

TAKING NOTE also that consideration is still being given by the International Telecommunication Union to those parts of the revised Code which are related to the Radio Regulations;

BEARING IN MIND the important contribution which the revised Code of Signals will make to safety at sea;

DECIDES

- (a) to adopt the revised Code of Signals;
- (b) to endorse the recommendations of the Maritime Safety Committee which appear in the Annex to

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this Resolution regarding the distribution, carriage and periodic revision of the Code and the knowledge of the spelling tables;

- (c) to authorize the Maritime Safety Committee to incorporate any amendments to the Code which may become necessary as a result of the next or any future Administrative Radio Conference for the Maritime Mobile Service;
- (d) to specify 1 January 1968 as the date for bringing the Code into force, provided that an Administrative Radio Conference for the Maritime Mobile Service has given final consideration to those parts of the Code on which ITU concurrence is required; however, in the event that ITU concurrence is not obtained or any necessary amendments to the Code cannot be incorporated by the Maritime Safety Committee by 1 January 1968, every effort should be made to bring the Code into force as soon thereafter as is feasible. If necessary, the figure-spelling table and procedural signals should be adopted on an experimental basis.
- (e) to invite Governments to supply, in due course, any comments by users of the Code so that it can be revised and kept up to date, as necessary;
- (f) to invite the Secretary-General to communicate the Code, together with a copy of this Resolution, to all IMCO Member States, and to all States which were invited to be represented at the International Conference on Safety of Life at Sea, 1960.

ANNEX

Recommendations of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC X/36, paragraphs 32-33)

The Committee at its tenth session had before it the completed text of the revised Code, together with the relevant Reports of the Sub-Committee. The Committee also heard that the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) expected to convene, in the spring of 1967, an Administrative Radio Conference for the Maritime Mobile Service. At that Conference it would be possible for the ITU to give final consideration to those parts of the revised Code of Signals on which ITU concurrence is required (the proposed figure-spelling table and procedural signals).

In the meanwhile, the Committee decided to approve the revised Code of Signals and to recommend to the Assembly as follows:

- (a) That the Code be adopted and communicated to all Member States and to all States which were invited to be represented at the International Conference on Safety of Life at Sea, 1960, in one of the two working languages, noting that subsequently a limited number of copies in the other seven editorial languages will be made available by the countries members of the Sub-Committee responsible for those editorial languages.
- (b) That governments make mandatory the carriage of the Code on all ships which, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1960, are required to carry a radiotelephone or radiotelegraph installation; and

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- (c) that governments seriously consider the desirability of the Code also being carried by other ships which, because of the nature of their employment, may have a need to use it;
- (d) that governments should require a knowledge of the spelling tables in the Code to form part of the knowledge required of masters and navigating officers of all vessels;
- (e) that the Code be brought into force on 1 January 1968;
- (f) that the Assembly authorize the Maritime Safety Committee to incorporate any amendments to the Code which they consider necessary as a result of the proceedings of the Administrative Radio Conference;
- (g) that governments be invited, in due course, to supply any comments by users of the Code, so that it can be revised and kept up to date, as necessary.

The Committee took note that the records of pronunciation for alphabet- and figure-spelling tables (to which Recommendation 29 of the ARC, 1959, refers) should be prepared by the ITU.

In the meanwhile, the Committee decided to recommend to the countries concerned that the table of signals intended for use between ice-breakers and assisted vessels be brought into effect in time for use during the coming winter (1965/1966).

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