

RESOLUTION MSC.331(90)  
(adopted on 25 May 2012)  
ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION MSC.298(87) ON  
ESTABLISHMENT OF A DISTRIBUTION FACILITY

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**ANNEX 12**

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**ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION MSC.298(87) ON**  
**ESTABLISHMENT OF A DISTRIBUTION FACILITY**

THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 28(b) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Committee,

RECALLING ALSO that, at its eighty-seventh session, it had approved resolution MSC.298(87) on Establishment of a distribution facility for the provision of LRIT information to security forces operating in waters of the Gulf of Aden and the western Indian Ocean to aid their work in the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships (the distribution facility),

NOTING that the Secretariat had established a distribution facility at IMO Headquarters and that a number of naval forces engaged in operations against the perpetrators in waters of the Gulf of Aden and the western Indian Ocean (the area) had advised that the use of the distribution facility had proven to be efficient and was providing security forces with a holistic picture of the ships operating in the area, enabling them to more effectively and efficiently deploy the limited available naval and military assets and enhancing the protection they offered to shipping and mariners transiting the area,

NOTING ALSO that, at its eighty-ninth session, it had agreed that the addition of polling functionalities to the distribution facility should be implemented as an "opt-in" arrangement in the LRIT system where each flag State would have the ability to determine which security force, if any, would be entitled to transmit polling request messages to any of their own ships,

HAVING CONSIDERED, at its ninetieth session, a technical solution for adding polling functionalities to the distribution facility,

1. AGREES that the addition of polling functionalities to the distribution facility will allow security forces to more accurately identify the current position of ships approaching areas of high risk of piracy attack;
2. AGREES ALSO to the implementation of the above polling functionality as an "opt-in" arrangement where the participation of flag States will be completely voluntary and each flag State will have the ability to determine which security force, if any, will be authorized to poll the position of any of their own ships that might be approaching areas of high risk of piracy attack;
3. ADOPTS amendments to resolution MSC.298(87) on Establishment of a distribution facility, the contents of which are set out in the annex to the present resolution;
4. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to implement and test the above functionalities in the distribution facility, taking into account the relevant decisions of the Committee, and to amend the Web interface of the LRIT Data Distribution Plan so as to allow SOLAS Contracting Governments to decide which security force(s), if any, would be authorized to transmit polling request messages to any of their own ships;

5. ENCOURAGES SOLAS Contracting Governments to consider, in case they have not done so, providing flag State LRIT information to security forces operating in the area and allowing them to transmit polling request messages to ships flying their flag when approaching areas of high risk of piracy attack;
6. INVITES the Secretary-General to issue a circular letter advising all SOLAS Contracting Governments on the availability of the above functionality within the distribution facility and describing the "opt-in" process.

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ANNEX

**AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION MSC.298(87) ON ESTABLISHMENT  
OF A DISTRIBUTION FACILITY**

1 The existing text of paragraph 5 is replaced by the following:

"5 The distribution facility will not have the capability to present the flag State LRIT information in a graphical manner."

2 The following three new paragraphs and heading are added after existing paragraph 9:

**"Polling the current location of a specific ship**

10 Security forces wishing to poll the current position of a specific ship that may be approaching an area of high risk of attack should indicate the IMO ship identification number and the LRIT ID of the Administration whose flag the ship is flying (the Data User Provider).

11 Polling position request messages will be transmitted by the distribution facility to the LRIT Data Centre associated with the Administration of the ship, through the IDE, only if the SOLAS Contracting Government concerned has authorized the security force in question to poll the current position of their own flag ships.

12 The provision of flag State LRIT information in response to a polling request message received from a security force is completely voluntary. SOLAS Contracting Governments have the right to decide, at any moment, and instruct their LRIT Data Centres whether polling request messages transmitted by security forces should be processed and responded."

3 The existing paragraphs 10 to 16 are renumbered as paragraphs 13 to 19, respectively.

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