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| MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE101st session Agenda item 24 | MSC 101/24/Add.110 July 2019Original: ENGLISH |

**REPORT OF THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE ON ITS 101ST SESSION**

***(Extract)***

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| ANNEX 20 | RESOLUTION MSC.468(101) – AMENDMENTS TO PROMULGATION OF MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION (RESOLUTION **A.705(17), AS AMENDED**) |

**ANNEX 20**

**RESOLUTION MSC.468(101)**

**(adopted on 14 June 2019)**

**AMENDMENTS TO PROMULGATION OF MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION**

**(RESOLUTION A.705(17), AS AMENDED)**

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, by resolution A.705(17), the Assembly adopted the *Recommendation on promulgation of Maritime Safety Information,*

RECALLING FURTHER that the Committee, at its eighty-fifth and ninety-second sessions, approved MSC.1/Circ.1287 and MSC.1/Circ.1287/Rev.1, respectively, on *Amendments to resolution A.705(17) – Promulgation of Maritime Safety Information*,

NOTING that the Assembly, at its seventeenth session, resolved that the procedures for the provision and promulgation of maritime safety information should be in accordance with resolution A.705(17) on *Promulgation of Maritime Safety Information*,

NOTING ALSO that the said Assembly resolution urged Member States to cooperate in providing maritime safety information in accordance with the structure established by the aforementioned Recommendation,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendation made by the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue, at its sixth session,

1 ADOPTS the *Revised recommendation on promulgation of Maritime Safety Information*, set out in the annex to the present resolution, which revises in its entirety the existing text of the annex to resolution A.705(17), as amended by MSC.1/Circ.1287 and MSC.1/Circ.1287/Rev.1;

2 RESOLVES that the procedures for the provision and promulgation of maritime safety information should be in accordance with the *Revised recommendation on promulgation of Maritime Safety Information* set out in the annex to the present resolution;

3 DETERMINES that the *Revised recommendation on promulgation of Maritime Safety Information* should become effective on 1 January 2020.

ANNEX

**REVISED RECOMMENDATION ON PROMULGATION OF**

**MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION**

**1** **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The purpose of this Recommendation is to set out the organization, standards and methods which should be used for the promulgation and reception of Maritime Safety Information (MSI).

1.2 The Maritime Safety Information service of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) is the internationally and nationally coordinated network of broadcasts containing information which is necessary for safe navigation, received on ships by equipment which automatically monitors the appropriate transmissions, displays information which is relevant to the ship and provides a print capability. This concept is illustrated in figure 1.

**INFORMATION**

**SERVICES**

**BROADCAST SERVICES**

**SHIPBOARD**

**EQUIPMENT**

**Navigational**

**Warning**

**Meteorological**

**Information**

**Other Urgent**

**Safety-related**

**Information**

**SAR**

**related**

**Information**

**COORDINATED BROADCAST SERVICES**

**NAVTEX**

**Enhanced Group Call (EGC)**

**NAVTEX**

**Service**

**Area**

**NAVTEX**

**Receiver**

**NAVAREA**

**METAREA**

**Sub-area**

**Coastal**

**Warning**

**Area**

**User**

**Defined**

**Area**

**Satellite**

**Ocean**

**Region**

**EGC Receiver**

**MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION**

**(International and National Coordination)**

**Figure 1 – The Maritime Safety Information service of the**

**Global Maritime Distress and Safety System**

1.3 MSI is of vital concern to all ships. It is therefore essential that common standards are applied to the collection, editing and dissemination of this information. Only by doing so will seafarers be assured of receiving the information they need, in a form which they understand, at the earliest possible time.

**2 DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of this document, [and all related Maritime Safety Information documentation,] the following definitions apply[[1]](#footnote-1):

.1*Coastal and offshore waters* apply to areas for which World Meterological Organization Members issue weather and sea bulletins, governed by the procedures in the Manual on Marine Meteorological Services(WMO‑No. 558).

.2 *Coastal warning* means a navigational warning or in-force bulletin promulgated as part of a numbered series by a National Coordinator.

.3 *Coastal warning area* means, with respect to the International Enhanced Group Call Service, a defined geographical area within a NAVAREA/METAREA or Sub-area established by a coastal State for the purpose of coordinating the broadcast of Maritime Safety Information.

.4 *Enhanced Group Call (EGC)* means the broadcast of coordinated Maritime Safety Information and Search and Rescue related information, to a defined geographical area using a recognized mobile satellite service.

.5*Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)* means a system that performs the functions set out in SOLAS regulation. IV/4.1.1.

.6 *HF NBDP* means High Frequency narrow-band direct-printing, using radio telegraphy as defined in Recommendation ITU-R M.688.

.7 *In-force bulletin* means a list of serial numbers of those NAVAREA, Sub‑area or coastal warnings in force issued and broadcast by the NAVAREA Coordinator, Sub-area Coordinator or National Coordinator.

.8 *International Enhanced Group Call service* means the coordinated broadcast and automatic reception of Maritime Safety Information and Search and Rescue related information via Enhanced Group Call, using the English language.

.9 *International Iridium Safetycast service* is a recognized mobile satellite service provided by [official name] in accordance with [resolution].

.10*International NAVTEX service* means the coordinated broadcast and automatic reception on 518 kHz of Maritime Safety Information by means of narrow‑band direct‑printing telegraphy using the English language.

.11 *International SafetyNET service* is a recognized mobile satellite service provided by [official name] in accordance with [resolution].

.12 *International SafetyNET II service* provides maritime safety Information providers and SAR authorities with enhanced features for the SafetyNet service.

*.*13 *Issuing Service* means a National Meteorological and Hydrological Service or National Authority which has accepted responsibility for ensuring that meteorological warnings and forecasts for shipping are disseminated through the International Enhanced Group Call service to the designated METAREA for which they area responsible for.

.14*Local warning* means a navigational warning which covers inshore waters, often within the limits of jurisdiction of a harbour or port authority.

.15 *Maritime Safety Information (MSI)* means navigational and meteorological warnings, meteorological forecasts and other urgent safety-related messages broadcast to ships as defined in SOLAS regulation IV/2.1.10.

.16*Maritime Safety Information service* means the internationally and nationally coordinated network of broadcasts containing information which is necessary for safe navigation.

.17*METAREA* means ageographical areaestablished for the purpose of coordinating the broadcast of marine meteorological information. The term METAREA followed by a roman numeral may be used to identify a particular geographical area.[[2]](#footnote-2).

.18 *METAREA Coordinator* means the individual with the authority to coordinate marine meteorological information broadcasts by one or more National Meteorological and Hydrological Services acting as Preparation or Issuing Services within the METAREA.

.19*Meteorological information* means both warnings and forecasts for weather, sea-state, and sea-ice information.

.20*National Coordinator* means the national authority charged with collating and issuing coastal warnings within a national area of responsibility.

.21*National NAVTEX service* means the broadcast and automatic reception of Maritime Safety Information by means of narrow-band direct-printing telegraphy using frequencies other than 518 kHz and languages as decided by the Administration concerned*.*

.22*National Enhanced Group Call* *service* means the broadcast and automatic reception of Maritime Safety Information via the EGC system, using languages as decided by the Administration concerned.

.23*NAVAREA* means ageographical area established for the purpose of coordinating the broadcast of navigational warnings. The term NAVAREA followed by a roman numeral may be used to identify a particular geographic area.2

.24*NAVAREA Coordinator* means the authority charged with coordinating, collating and issuing NAVAREA warnings for a designated NAVAREA.

.25*NAVAREA warning* means a navigational warning or in-force bulletin promulgated as part of a numbered series by a NAVAREA Coordinator.

.26*Navigational warning* means amessage containing urgent information relevant to safe navigation broadcast to ships.

.27*NAVTEX* means the system for the broadcast and automatic reception of Maritime Safety Information by means of narrow-band direct-printing telegraphy.

.28 *NAVTEX coordinator* means the authority charged with operating and managing one or more NAVTEX stations broadcasting maritime safety information as part of the International NAVTEX service.

.29*NAVTEX coverage area* means anarea defined by an arc of a circle having a radius from the transmitter calculated according to the method and criteria given in resolution A.801(19), as amended.

.30*NAVTEX service area* means a unique and precisely defined geographical area, wholly contained within the NAVTEX coverage area, for which Maritime Safety Information is provided from a particular NAVTEX transmitter. It is normally defined by a line that takes full account of local propagation conditions and the character and volume of information and maritime traffic patterns in the region, as given in resolution A.801(19), as amended.

.31*Other urgent safety-related information* means Maritime Safety Information broadcast to ships that is not defined as a navigational warning or meteorological information. This may include, but is not limited to, significant malfunctions or changes to maritime communications systems, and new or amended mandatory ship reporting systems or maritime regulations affecting ships at sea.

.32 *Preparation Service* means a National Meteorological and Hydrological Service or National Authority which has accepted responsibility for the preparation of meteorological warnings and forecasts for shipping for parts of or an entire METAREA for their transfer to the relevant Issuing Service for broadcast.

.33 *Recognized mobile satellite service* means any service which operates through a satellite system and is recognized by the Organization, for use in the GMDSS, [reference SOLAS IV regulation 2.1.13]

.34 *Search and Rescue (SAR) related information* means distress alert relays and other urgent search and rescue related information broadcast to ships.

.35 *Sub-area* means a geographical area established within a NAVAREA/METAREA for the purpose of coordinating the broadcast of maritime safety information.

.36 *Sub-area**Coordinator* means the authority charged with coordinating, collating and issuing Maritime Safety Information for a designated Sub-area.

.37*Sub-area**warning* means a navigational warning or in-force bulletin promulgated as part of a numbered series by a Sub-area Coordinator to a Sub-area.

.38*User defined area* means a temporary geographic area, either circular or rectangular, to which Maritime Safety Information or Search and Rescue-related information is addressed.

.39 *UTC* means Coordinated Universal Time which is equivalent to GMT (or ZULU) as the international time standard.

.40 *World-Wide Met-Ocean Information and Warning Service (WWMIWS)[[3]](#footnote-3)* means the internationally coordinated service for the promulgation of meteorological warnings and forecasts.

.41*World-Wide Navigational Warning Service (WWNWS)[[4]](#footnote-4)* means the internationally and nationally coordinated service for the promulgation of navigational warnings.

[.41 In the operating procedures, *coordination* means that the allocation of the time for data broadcast is centralized, the format and criteria of data transmissions are compliant as described in the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information and that all services are managed as set out in resolutions A.705(17), as amended, A.706(17), as amended, and A.1051(27), as amended.]

**3 BROADCAST METHODS**

3.1 The two principal methods used for broadcasting MSI in accordance with the provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended (the 1974 SOLAS Convention), in the areas covered by these methods, are as follows:

.1 NAVTEX: broadcasts to coastal waters; and

.2 Enhanced Group Call: broadcasts to the geographical areas covered by recognized mobile satellite services.

3.2 MSI should be provided for unique and precisely defined geographical areas, each being served only by the most appropriate of the above methods. Although there will be some duplication to allow a ship to change from one method to another, the majority of MSI will be broadcast either on NAVTEX or by EGC.

3.3 NAVTEX broadcasts should be made in accordance with the standards and procedures set out in the NAVTEX Manual.

[3.4 Mobile satellite service providers recognized by the Organization should be used by all information providers broadcasting EGC, if sufficient to cover all NAVAREA/METAREA areas.]

[3.4 bis Contracting Governments should ensure that MSI is appropriately disseminated through all operational RMSS providing coverage within the NAVAREA and METAREA under their responsibility. This will ensure that all ships navigating within those areas receive the information regardless of the type of EGC equipment installed on board.]

3.5 EGC broadcasts should be made in accordance with the standards and procedures set out in the IMO manuals of the recognized mobile satellite service providers.

3.6HF NBDP may be used to promulgate MSI in areas outside EGC and NAVTEX coverage (SOLAS regulation IV/7.1.5).

3.7 In addition, Administrations may also provide MSI by other means.

3.8 In the event of failure of normal transmission facilities, an alternative means of transmission should be utilized. A NAVAREA/METAREA warning and a coastal warning, if possible, should be issued detailing the failure, its duration and, if known, the alternative route for the dissemination of MSI.

**4** **SHIPBOARD EQUIPMENT**

4.1 Ships are required to be capable of receiving MSI broadcasts for the area in which they operate in accordance with the provisions of the 1974 SOLAS Convention.[[5]](#footnote-5)

**5 PROVISION OF INFORMATION**

5.1 Navigational warnings should be provided in accordance with the standards, organization and procedures of WWNWS under the functional guidance of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) through its World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub‑Committee (WWNWS-SC).

5.2 Meteorological information should be provided in accordance with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) technical regulations, recommendations, and procedures defined for the Worldwide Met-Ocean Information and Warning Service (WWMIWS) through the WMO Services Commission (SERCOM).

[5.3 Other urgent safety-related information should be provided by the relevant national or international authority.]

5.4Relevant national or international authorities should take into account the need for contingency planning.

**6** **COORDINATION PROCEDURES**

6.1 In order to make the best use of automated reception facilities, and to ensure that seafarers receive at least the minimum information necessary for safe navigation, careful coordination is required.

6.2 In general, this requirement for coordination will be met by the standard operational procedures of IMO, IHO and WMO. Coordination issues should be referred, in the first instance, to the most appropriate parent body.

6.3 MSI providers should, through their Administrations, provide details of their services and any changes to their operational status to the Organization, which will maintain and publish this as part of the GMDSS module of the Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS).

6.4 The coordination of changes to operational NAVTEX services and of the establishment of new stations is undertaken by the IMO NAVTEX Coordinating Panel on behalf of the Maritime Safety Committee.

6.5 The coordination of changes to operational EGC services and of the authorization and registration of information providers is undertaken by the IMO Enhanced Group Call Coordinating Panel on behalf of the Maritime Safety Committee.

6.6 MSI providers should arrange the content and means of their broadcast transmissions to suit specific service areas.[[6]](#footnote-6) The designation of service areas is an important part of the coordination process since it is intended that a ship should be able to obtain all the information relevant to a given area from a single source. The Maritime Safety Committee approves NAVAREAs/METAREAs and service areas for the International NAVTEX and EGC services as advised by IHO and WMO.

**7 EGC SERVICE AVAILABILITY**

7.1 Cases of difficulty affecting the broadcast of MSI and SAR related information through the EGC system(s) of a recognized mobile satellite service provider in ways that limit the ability of MSI and SAR related information providers to monitor the EGC broadcasts that they originate, or the ability of ships to receive EGC broadcasts intended for reception throughout their intended voyages, should be brought to the attention of IMSO as and when necessary for the purpose of discharging IMSO's technical oversight responsibilities in respect of the recognized satellite service provider(s) involved.

**8** **PROCEDURE FOR AMENDING THE MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION SERVICE**

8.1 Proposals for amendment or enhancement of the MSI service should be submitted for evaluation by the Sub‑Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR). Amendments should only be adopted after consideration and approval by the NCSR Sub-Committee.

8.2 Amendments to the service should be adopted at intervals as determined by the Maritime Safety Committee. Amendments adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee will be notified to all concerned and will come into force on 1 January of the following year, or at another date as decided by the Committee.

8.3 The agreement of IHO, WMO, IMSO and ITU, as appropriate, and the active participation of other bodies should be sought, according to the nature of the proposed amendments.

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1. This definition list is valid for the following documents: A.705(17) and A.706(17) as amended, and MSC1./ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. As set out in resolution A.1051(17), as amended. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. As set out in resolution A.706(17), as amended. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Refer to MSC.1/Circ.1645 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Coordination of HF NBDP broadcasts in the Arctic should be undertaken by relevant MSI service providers. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)