



香 港 商 船 資 訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Adoption of Amendments to the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972, as amended

To : Shipowners, Ship Operators, Masters and Classification Societies

Summary

This Note promulgates the new IMO requirements for distress signals, which will come into force on 1 December 2009.

1. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) at its 25th Assembly on 29 November 2007 adopted, by Resolution A.1004(25), amendments to the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972, as amended (COLREG 72). The amendments related to sending out of distress signals will enter into force internationally on 1 December 2009.
2. Subparagraphs 1 (d) (l) and (m) of Annex IV of COLREG 72 were amended as follows:
 - (d) a signal made by any signalling method consisting of the group ...---... (SOS) in the Morse Code;
 - (l) a distress alert by means of digital selective calling (DSC) transmitted on:
 - (i) VHF channel 70, or
 - (ii) MF/HF on the frequencies 2187.5 kHz, 8414.5 kHz, 4207.5 kHz, 6312 kHz, 12577 kHz or 16804.5 kHz;
 - (m) a ship-to-shore distress alert transmitted by the ship's Inmarsat or other mobile satellite service provider ship earth station;

A copy of the resolution A.1004(25) is attached for ready reference.

3. Shipowners, Ship Operators, Masters and Classification Societies are required to note the amendments and act accordingly.

Marine Department
Multi-lateral Policy Division

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