

ANNEX 20

**RESOLUTION MSC. 160(78)
(adopted on 20 May 2004)**

**ADOPTION OF THE IMO UNIQUE COMPANY AND REGISTERED OWNER
IDENTIFICATION NUMBER SCHEME**

THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 28(b) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Committee in relation to regulations and guidelines concerning maritime safety, security and the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships,

BELIEVING that the enhancement of maritime safety, security and pollution prevention and the prevention of maritime fraud could be facilitated if a permanent identification number were assigned to companies and registered owners which would remain unchanged and would be inserted on ships' certificates,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendations made by the Conference of Contracting Governments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 on Maritime Security (Conference resolution 3 on Further work by the Organization pertaining to the enhancement of maritime security),

1. ADOPTS the IMO unique company and registered owner identification number scheme, as set out in the Annex to the present resolution, for implementation on a voluntary basis;
2. RECOMMENDS Governments concerned to implement the scheme as far as is practicable, and to inform IMO of measures taken in this respect.

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IMO UNIQUE COMPANY AND REGISTERED OWNER
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INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of the scheme is to enhance maritime safety and security and pollution prevention and to facilitate the prevention of maritime fraud. It is not intended to prejudice matters of liability, civil law or other commercial considerations in the operation of companies and registered owners.

APPLICATION

2. The scheme may be applied by Administrations on a voluntary basis for new or existing companies and registered owners, managing ships of 100 gross tonnage and upwards under their flag, involved in international voyages. Administrations may also wish to assign the IMO numbers to companies and registered owners engaged solely in domestic trade and to insert the number in the national certificates.

ASSIGNMENT OF IMO UNIQUE COMPANY AND REGISTERED OWNER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

3. The IMO unique company and registered owner identification number is a number, allocated at the time of issuance of a document listed in paragraph 6, with the prefix IMO (e.g. IMO 8712345). Administrations which have decided to implement the scheme are invited to assign all appropriate companies and registered owners managing ships entitled to fly their flags, or cause them to be assigned, the IMO unique company and registered owner identification number and to insert them on ships' certificates.

4. For new companies and registered owners, the assignment of the IMO unique company and registered owner identification number should be made when the company's ship is entitled to fly its flag. For existing companies and registered owners, the assignment of the IMO unique company and registered owner identification number should be made at an early convenient date, such as when the certificates listed in this resolution are issued or renewed.

5. Administrations implementing the scheme are invited to inform the Organization accordingly, for circulation to other Administrations.

DOCUMENTS ON WHICH THE IMO UNIQUE COMPANY AND REGISTERED OWNER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER IS TO BE INSERTED

6. The IMO unique company and registered owner identification number should be inserted on the following documents:

- .1 Document of Compliance; Safety Management Certificate; Interim Document of Compliance; and Interim Safety Management Certificate required by the International Safety Management Code;
- .2 Continuous Synopsis Record required by SOLAS chapter XI-1, regulation 5; and

- .3 International (Interim) Ship Security Certificate, required by SOLAS chapter XI-1, Part A, appendices 1 and 2.
