

## RESOLUTION 344 (REV.WRC-19)

**Management of the maritime identity numbering resource**

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Sharm el-Sheikh, 2019),

*noting*

- a)* that the installation of digital selective calling (DSC) equipment and some Inmarsat ship earth station equipment on ships participating in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) on a mandatory or voluntary basis requires the assignment of a unique nine-digit maritime mobile service identity (MMSI);
- b)* that such equipment offers the possibility to connect with public telecommunication networks;
- c)* that only mobile-satellite systems have been able to resolve the various billing, routing, charging and signalling requirements needed to provide full two-way automatic connectivity between ships and the international public correspondence service;
- d)* that the automatic identification system (AIS) and its related systems require MMSI or other maritime identities;
- e)* that radios capable of DSC and intended to be used on non-SOLAS ships require maritime identities;
- f)* that the first three digits of a ship station MMSI form the maritime identification digits (MID), which denote the ship's administration,

*considering*

- a)* that DSC distress alerts require valid identities recognizable by search and rescue authorities in order to ensure a timely response;
- b)* that AIS and its related systems require valid identities recognizable by other ships and authorities for safety of navigation and search and rescue operations;
- c)* that Recommendation ITU-R M.585 contains guidance for the assignment and use of maritime identities, such as MMSIs and other maritime identities,

*recognizing*

- a)* that even domestic ships which install the present generation of ship earth stations will require the assignment of MMSI numbers from those numbers originally intended for ships communicating worldwide, further depleting the resource;
- b)* that mobile-satellite systems offering access to public telecommunication networks and participating in the GMDSS employ a free-form numbering system that need not include any part of the MMSI;
- c)* that future growth of AIS and its related systems will require further resources of MMSI and other maritime identities,

*noting further*

- a) that the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) is solely responsible for managing the MMSI and MID numbering resources;
- b) that ITU-R can monitor the status of the MMSI resource, through regular reviews of the spare capacity available within the MIDs already in use, and the availability of spare MIDs, taking account of regional variations;
- c) that ITU-R, as a part of the review of MMSI numbering resources, adopted a revision of Recommendation ITU-R M.585 in 2019, removing a provision within the MMSI numbering scheme that set aside three trailing zeros for some categories of mobile-satellite service systems participating in the GMDSS to facilitate the shore-to-ship routing of calls; the provision is no longer necessary and its removal has allowed for the release of reserved MMSI numbering resources,

*resolves to instruct the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau*

1 to manage allotment and distribution of the MID resource within the MMSI and other maritime identity numbering formats, taking into account:

- Sections II, V and VI of Article 19;
- regional variations in MMSI use;
- spare capacity within the MID resource; and
- the assignment, management and conservation of maritime identities contained in the most recent version of Recommendation ITU-R M.585, in particular as regards the reuse of MMSIs;

2 to report to each world radiocommunication conference on the use and status of the MMSI resource, noting in particular the anticipated reserve capacity and any indications of rapid exhaustion of the resource,

*invites the ITU Radiocommunication Sector*

to keep under review the Recommendations for assigning MMSIs and other maritime identities, with a view to:

- improving the management of the MID, MMSI and other maritime identity resources; and
- identifying alternative resources if there is an indication of rapid exhaustion of these resources,

*instructs the Secretary-General*

to communicate this Resolution to the International Maritime Organization.