

RESOLUTION 352 (WRC-03)

Use of the carrier frequencies 12 290 kHz and 16 420 kHz for safety-related calling to and from rescue coordination centres

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2003),

considering

a) that this Conference modified No. **52.221A** to allow safety-related calling to and from rescue coordination centres on the carrier frequencies 12 290 kHz and 16 420 kHz;

b) that this limited safety-related calling function on these carrier frequencies will enhance the capability of those search and rescue organizations which maintain watch on these distress and safety frequencies to call vessels not utilizing the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS),

noting

a) that regulation IV/4.8 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended, requires that SOLAS ships, while at sea, be capable of transmitting and receiving general radiocommunications to and from shore-based radio systems or networks;

b) that general communications may include safety-related communications necessary for the safe operation of vessels,

further noting

that safety-related communications require adequate, effective and immediate access and protection,

recognizing

a) that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) notes that distress, urgency and safety radiocommunications include, but are not limited to:

- transmissions of maritime safety information;
- distress calls and traffic;
- acknowledgment and relaying of distress calls;
- search and rescue coordination communications;
- ship movement service communications;
- communications related to the safe operation of ships;
- communications related to navigation;
- meteorological warnings;
- meteorological observations;
- ship position reports; and
- medical emergencies (e.g. MEDICO/MEDIVAC);

b) that distress, urgency and safety communications are defined in Articles **32** and **33**,

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resolves

1 that the carrier frequencies 12 290 kHz and 16 420 kHz be used only for distress, urgency and safety communications, and safety-related calling limited to that to and from rescue coordination centres;

2 that safety-related calling be initiated only after determination that other communications are not present on these frequencies;

3 that safety-related calling be minimized and not cause interference to distress, urgency and safety communications,

invites administrations

to encourage the coast and ship stations under their jurisdiction to use digital selective calling techniques,

instructs the Secretary-General

to bring this Resolution to the attention of the IMO.