

ASSEMBLY
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Agenda item 10

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Resolution A.1078(28)

**Adopted on 4 December 2013
(Agenda item 10)**

IMO SHIP IDENTIFICATION NUMBER SCHEME

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 15(j) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly in relation to regulations and guidelines concerning maritime safety and the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships,

BELIEVING that the enhancement of maritime safety and pollution prevention and the prevention of maritime fraud could be facilitated if a permanent identification number were assigned to a ship which would remain unchanged upon transfer of its flag and would be inserted on the ship's certificates,

RECALLING ALSO that, by resolution A.600(15), it adopted the *IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme*,

RECOGNIZING the need for the *IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme* to be revised to allow its voluntary application to ships of 100 gross tonnage and above, including fishing vessels,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendation made by the Maritime Safety Committee at its ninety-second session,

- 1 ADOPTS the *IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme*, for implementation on a voluntary basis, as set out in the annex to the present resolution;
- 2 INVITES Governments concerned to implement the scheme, as far as it is practicable, and to inform the Organization of measures taken in this respect;
- 3 REQUESTS the Maritime Safety Committee to keep the scheme under review for further improvement as may be necessary;
- 4 REVOKES resolution A.600(15).

Annex

IMO SHIP IDENTIFICATION NUMBER SCHEME

Introduction

1 The purpose of the scheme is to enhance maritime safety 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 a ship. The scheme may be applied by Administrations on a voluntary basis for new and existing ships under their flag which are engaged in international voyages. Administrations may also wish to assign the IMO numbers to ships engaged solely on domestic voyages and to insert the number in the national certificates.

Application

2 The scheme applies to seagoing ships of 100 gross tonnage and above, with the exception of the following:

- ships without mechanical means of propulsion;
- pleasure yachts;
- ships engaged on special service¹;
- hopper barges;
- hydrofoils, hovercraft;
- floating docks and structures classified in a similar manner;
- ships of war and troop ships; and
- wooden ships in general.

Assignment of IMO number

3 The IMO number is a number, allocated by IHS Maritime² at the time of build or when a ship is first included in the Register of Ships, with the prefix IMO (e.g. IMO8712345). Administrations which have decided to implement the scheme are invited to assign all appropriate ships flying their flags, or cause them to be assigned, the IMO numbers and to insert them on ships' certificates.

4 For new ships, the assignment to the IMO number should be made when the ship is registered. For existing ships, the assignment of the IMO number should be made at an early convenient date, such as when the renewal survey is completed or new certificates are issued.

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

¹ For example, lightships, floating radio stations, search and rescue vessels.

² Formerly known as IHS-Fairplay (IHS-F).

6 Official publications and other information from IHS Maritime are sources for referencing the identification number. If the particulars of a ship do not correspond to those shown in the Register of Ships and its supplement because, for example, the ship had changed name, or the port State control officer had doubts as to whether the numbers given on the certificates were genuine, further clarification may be sought from IHS Maritime, the IMO Secretariat or the flag State.

Certificates on which the IMO number is to be inserted

7 The IMO number should be inserted on a ship's Certificate of Registry which includes the particulars identifying the ship, and on all certificates issued under IMO conventions when and where appropriate. It is recommended that the IMO number also be inserted in other certificates, such as classification certificates, when and where appropriate. The IMO number should preferably be included in the box headed "Distinctive number or letters" in addition to the call sign.

How to obtain the IMO number

8 To obtain an IMO number for both new and existing ships and to make ad hoc enquiries, please contact the following website www.imonumbers.ihs.com or requests can be sent to IHS Maritime at the following address:

IHS Maritime
(Part of IHS Global Limited)
Sentinel House
163 Brighton Road
Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 2YH
United Kingdom

Email: ship.imo@ihs.com
Tel: +44 (0) 203 253 2404
Fax: +44 (0) 203 253 2102

New ships (on order and under construction)

9 The IMO number can be obtained by one of the following methods:

- .1 inquiries should be addressed to IHS Maritime by telephone, email or facsimile. In making such inquiry particulars of the ship should be presented³.

Based on the above information, IHS Maritime will provide the necessary IMO number free of charge. If there is no data in the IHS Maritime new construction file on the ship concerned, a new record on that ship will be created and the IHS Maritime number will be assigned;

- .2 online access to the new construction file through Sea-web (IMO has access to this system); or
- .3 application through IHS Maritime, which will provide a service of regular listings of the order book with selected data items, produced for a client's specification.

³ A list of particulars can be found in the form annexed to circular letters on the *IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme* (e.g. Circular Letter No.1886/Rev.4).

Existing ships

10 For existing ships, IHS Maritime is prepared to answer ad hoc requests free of charge up to a reasonable point of acceptability.

Inquiry to the IMO Secretariat

11 The IMO number may also be obtained free of charge from the IMO Secretariat (Maritime Safety Division – facsimile: +44(0)20 7587 3210 or email: IMOnumbers@imo.org) which has access to the Sea-web system. In making such an inquiry to the IMO Secretariat, information on particulars of the ship (as in paragraph 9.1) should be provided. The quickest route for the issuing of a number is to contact IHS Maritime directly at the address in paragraph 8.