

**RESOLUTION A.660(16)**

*Adopted on 19 October 1989  
Agenda item 10*

**CARRIAGE OF SATELLITE EMERGENCY POSITION-INDICATING  
RADIO BEACONS (EPIRBs)**

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,

RECOGNIZING that emergency position-indicating radio beacons (EPIRBs) improve the safety of life at sea by greatly facilitating search and rescue,

RECALLING that resolution A.522(13) recommends Administrations to encourage the carriage of float-free EPIRBs operating on frequencies compatible with the existing satellite search and rescue services,

RECALLING FURTHER that the Maritime Safety Committee at its fifty-second session recommended carriage of survival craft radar transponders, as an equivalent arrangement to the survival craft EPIRBs required by regulation III/6.2.3 of the 1983 SOLAS amendments, and also recommended that the ship itself be fitted with a satellite EPIRB in order to provide the alerting function,\*

NOTING that the Conference of Contracting Governments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, on the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS Conference, 1988) adopted resolution 4 – Recommendation on the early introduction of GMDSS radio life-saving appliances, which recommends that, where a means of transmitting signals for locating is provided on board a ship, Administrations accept a satellite EPIRB as equivalent to the survival craft EPIRBs,

NOTING ALSO the favourable experience already gained with EPIRBs operating in conjunction with the COSPAS-SARSAT system,

NOTING FURTHER that the GMDSS Conference, by regulation IV/7.1.6 of the 1988 SOLAS amendments, has adopted provisions, applicable not later than 1 August 1993, for the carriage of a float-free satellite EPIRB on every ship as part of the global maritime distress and safety system,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendation made by the Maritime Safety Committee at its fifty-seventh session,

RECOMMENDS that Administrations encourage the early fitting of float-free satellite EPIRBs prior to the date of entry into force of the requirements of chapter IV of the 1988 SOLAS amendments for the carriage of satellite EPIRBs on ships.

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\* MSC/Circ.423 on "Equivalent arrangements for survival craft emergency position-indicating radio beacons".