

RESOLUTION A.606(15)

*Adopted on 19 November 1987
Agenda item 12*

**REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF THE GLOBAL MARITIME
DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM (GMDSS)**

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,

NOTING the decisions of the WARC-MOB-87, related to the introduction of the GMDSS,

NOTING FURTHER the provisions of the preliminary draft of a revised chapter IV of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, developed for the purpose of establishing the requirements for the introduction of the global maritime distress and safety system (GMDSS),

RECOGNIZING the importance of the GMDSS for the safety of life at sea,

RECOGNIZING ALSO that the GMDSS is provisionally planned to be implemented between 1 August 1991 and 1 February 1997,

BEARING IN MIND the recommendations contained in resolution A.500(XII), concerning the costs and benefits to the maritime industry of the measures adopted by the Organization,

BEARING ALSO IN MIND that the investment required for ships to comply with the requirements of the GMDSS may, in many areas, be higher than the investment needed to meet present requirements, in particular for cargo ships of less than 1,600 gross tonnage,

CONSIDERING that a review of the requirements for MF DSC, VHF DSC and HF NBDP on cargo ships of less than 1,600 gross tonnage, as set out in this resolution, was a condition for the agreement on GMDSS carriage requirements for these ships and that DSC requirements for ships over 1,600 gross tonnage will be applicable when DSC equipment is available,

FURTHER CONSIDERING the importance of keeping the operation of the GMDSS and the technical developments related thereto under review,

REQUESTS the Maritime Safety Committee to:

- (a) Keep under review the requirements for MF DSC, VHF DSC and HF NBDP on ships of 300 gross tonnage and over but less than 1,600 gross tonnage and for MF DSC and VHF DSC on ships of 1,600 gross tonnage and over, in the light of the cost and demonstrated effectiveness of such facilities compared with alternative systems which may become available prior to the entry into force of the relevant carriage requirements;
- (b) Review and evaluate the experience gained with the global maritime distress and safety system (GMDSS) and determine whether, in the future, there is a need to adjust the requirements of the system.