

Resolution A.717(17)
Adopted on 6 November 1991
(Agenda item 10)

**CO-ORDINATION IN MATTERS RELATING TO DANGEROUS GOODS
AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES**

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,

RECALLING ALSO Recommendation 56 of the International Conference on Safety of Life at Sea, 1960, concerning the mandate given to the Organization to pursue its studies, in co-operation with the United Nations Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, on an international code for the carriage of dangerous goods, especially in respect of the classification, description, labelling and the list of dangerous goods and the shipping documents therefor,

RECALLING FURTHER Recommendation 11 of the International Conference on Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, concerning the continuation of work in co-operation with other international organizations concerned and in particular the United Nations Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods with a view to the adoption of a self-contained International Convention on the Carriage of Dangerous Goods by all Modes of Transport at the earliest practicable opportunity,

NOTING resolution A.716(17) on the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG Code),

NOTING ALSO with appreciation that the IMDG Code is now widely used by the maritime industry and is recognized as providing authoritative and informed guidance on the safe transport of dangerous, hazardous and harmful cargoes, including environmentally hazardous substances (marine pollutants) and wastes,

NOTING ADDITIONALLY that conventions and recommendations relating to the transport of dangerous goods have been developed by other intergovernmental bodies responsible for other modes of transport in co-operation with the United Nations Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods,

NOTING FURTHER the development of new conventions, legislation and recommendations relating to dangerous goods or to the management of chemicals outside the co-ordinated forum of the United Nations Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, IMO and other intergovernmental bodies responsible for transport by air, road, rail and inland waterways,

BEING CONCERNED that any future work on the harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals and the elaboration of an intergovernmental mechanism on chemical risk assessment and management should take fully into account the systematic procedures developed or followed by IMO in connection with the transport of dangerous goods or hazardous substances by ships,

STRESSING the need for the transport of dangerous, hazardous and harmful cargoes, including environmentally hazardous substances (marine pollutants) and wastes by sea to be governed by the mandatory requirements of the SOLAS 1974 and MARPOL 73/78 Conventions as supplemented

by the mandatory International Bulk Chemical Code (IBC Code) and International Gas Carrier Code (IGC Code) and by the globally implemented International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG Code) and Code of Safe Practice for Solid Bulk Cargoes (BC Code),

1. URGES all United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies concerned working on various aspects of the management of chemicals to co-ordinate their efforts in order to ensure the compatibility of any legislation on chemicals, dangerous goods and hazardous substances with established international transport rules and regulations, and to take all necessary steps to avoid conflict with Recommendation 11 of the 1974 International Conference on Safety of Life at Sea;
2. STRONGLY URGES Governments to co-ordinate their work in the different organizations to prevent conflicts with established rules and regulations relating to the maritime transport of dangerous, hazardous and harmful cargoes, including environmentally hazardous substances (marine pollutants) and wastes;
3. REQUESTS the Secretary-General:
 - (a) to continue to ensure that IMO remains actively involved in the consideration of matters related to the management of chemicals, dangerous goods and hazardous substances and to report to the Assembly at its eighteenth session on the current status of consideration of these matters within the United Nations system;
 - (b) to communicate this resolution to the executive heads of ILO, UNEP, WHO and FAO and other intergovernmental bodies concerned and to report to the Assembly at its eighteenth session on developments in the aforementioned respects, particularly in so far as IMO's interests may be affected.

Resolution A.718(17)

Modified by A.745(18)

*Adopted on 6 November 1991
(Agenda item 10)*

**EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF
SURVEY AND CERTIFICATION**

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,

RECOGNIZING that the International Conference on the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification, 1988 (1988 HSSC Conference), adopted the Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (1988 SOLAS Protocol), and the Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966 (1988 Load Line Protocol) which introduce, *inter alia*, the harmonized system of survey and certification under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (1974 SOLAS Convention) and the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966 (1966 Load Line Convention),

RECOGNIZING ALSO that by resolution MEPC.39(29) amendments have been adopted to introduce the harmonized system of survey and certification under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the 1978 Protocol relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78), and that these amendments will enter into force at the same time as 1988 SOLAS and 1988 Load Line Protocols,

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that by the resolutions given below, amendments that will also enter into force at the same time as 1988 SOLAS and Load Line Protocols, have been adopted to introduce the harmonized system of survey and certification under the following instruments:

- (a) the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (IBC Code) by resolutions MEPC.40(29) and MSC.16(58),
- (b) the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (IGC Code) by resolution MSC.17(58),
- (c) the Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (BCH Code) by resolutions MEPC.41(29) and MSC.18(58),

NOTING that resolution 1 adopted at 1988 HSSC Conference urges Governments to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the 1988 SOLAS and Load Line Protocols as soon as possible and at the same time,

NOTING ALSO that resolutions 2 and 3 adopted at the 1988 HSSC Conference urge Governments which are Contracting Governments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention and the 1966 Load Line Convention to become Parties to the 1988 SOLAS and Load Line Protocols at the earliest possible time and invite such Contracting Governments, which are not Parties to the 1988 SOLAS and Load Line Protocols, following the entry into force of the 1988 SOLAS and Load Line Protocols, to give the certificates, issued under the forms prescribed by the 1988 SOLAS and Load Line Protocols, the same recognition as that given to certificates issued under the 1974 SOLAS Convention and the 1966 Load Line Convention,

- BEING AWARE that it may be some time before the 1988 SOLAS and Load Line Protocols enter into force,
- BEING AWARE ALSO that the harmonized system of survey and certification simplifies survey requirements thereby reducing the burden on Administrations and also on the operators of ships and the crews of ships,
- BELIEVING THAT the harmonized system of survey and certification is at least equivalent to the present requirements for survey and certification,
- HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendation of the Maritime Safety Committee at its fifty-ninth session and of the Marine Environment Protection Committee at its thirty-first session,
1. AGREES that States that have ratified, accepted, approved or acceded to both the 1988 SOLAS Protocol and 1988 Load Line Protocol, and are parties to MARPOL 73/78, may:
 - (a) implement the harmonized system of survey and certification, as detailed in the 1988 SOLAS and Load Line Protocols and the respective amendments to MARPOL 73/78, the IBC Code, the IGC Code and the BCH Code, on or after 1 February 1992;
 - (b) issue certificates in the form prescribed by the 1988 SOLAS and Load Line Protocols and the respective amendments that introduce the harmonized system of survey and certification into MARPOL 73/78, the IBC Code, the IGC Code and the BCH Code modified in accordance with annex 1;
 - (c) introduce the harmonized system of survey and certification on their ships as provided for in annex 2;
 2. AGREES ALSO that States that have ratified, accepted, approved or acceded to both the 1988 SOLAS Protocol and the 1988 Load Line Protocol, and are not parties to MARPOL 73/78, may:
 - (a) implement the harmonized system of survey and certification, as detailed in the 1988 SOLAS and Load Line Protocols, and the respective amendments to the IGC Code, on or after 1 February 1992;
 - (b) issue certificates in the form prescribed by the 1988 SOLAS and Load Line Protocols and the respective amendment that introduces the harmonized system of survey and certification into the IGC Code modified in accordance with annex 1;
 - (c) introduce the harmonized system of survey and certification on their ships as provided for in annex 2;
 3. INVITES Governments that have not implemented the harmonized system of survey and certification in accordance with paragraph 1(a) or 2(a) above to give certificates issued under paragraph 1(b) or 2(b) above the same recognition as that given to certificates issued under the 1974 SOLAS Convention, the 1966 Load Line Convention, MARPOL 73/78, the IBC Code, the IGC Code and the BCH Code, as appropriate;
 4. REQUESTS Governments that implement the harmonized system of survey and certification in accordance with the provisions of this resolution to inform the Secretary-General of their action and of the date when it will take effect;
 5. REQUESTS ALSO that the Secretary-General keep Member Governments informed of those Governments that are introducing the harmonized system of survey and certification in accordance with the provisions of this resolution;
 6. URGES Governments to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the 1988 SOLAS and Load Line Protocols as soon as possible and at the same time.

**MODIFICATIONS TO THE FORMS OF CERTIFICATES PRESCRIBED BY
THE 1988 SOLAS AND LOAD LINE PROTOCOLS AND
THE RESPECTIVE AMENDMENTS TO MARPOL 73/78
AND THE IBC, IGC AND BCH CODES**

PASSENGER SHIP SAFETY CERTIFICATE

After the words "Issued under the provisions of the INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974," delete "as modified by the Protocol of 1988 related thereto" and add "in accordance with Assembly resolution A.718(17) relating to the early implementation of the harmonized system of survey and certification".

Record of Equipment for the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate (Form P)

After "RECORD OF EQUIPMENT FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974," delete "AS MODIFIED BY THE PROTOCOL OF 1988 RELATING THERETO" and add "in accordance with Assembly resolution A.718(17) relating to the early implementation of the harmonized system of survey and certification".

CARGO SHIP SAFETY CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

After "Issued under the provisions of the INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974," delete "as modified by the Protocol of 1988 relating thereto" and add "and in accordance with Assembly resolution A.718(17) relating to the early implementation of the harmonized system of survey and certification".

CARGO SHIP SAFETY EQUIPMENT CERTIFICATE

After "Issued under the provisions of the INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974," delete "as modified by the Protocol of 1988 relating thereto" and add "and in accordance with Assembly resolution A.718(17) relating to the early implementation of the harmonized system of survey and certification".

Record of Equipment for the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate (Form E)

After "RECORD OF EQUIPMENT FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974," delete "AS MODIFIED BY THE PROTOCOL OF 1988 RELATING THERETO" and add "in accordance with Assembly resolution A.718(17) relating to the early implementation of the harmonized system of survey and certification".

CARGO SHIP SAFETY RADIO CERTIFICATE

After "Issued under the provisions of the INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974," delete "as modified by the Protocol of 1988 relating thereto" and add "and in accordance with Assembly resolution A.718(17) relating to the early implementation of the harmonized system of survey and certification".

Record of Equipment for the Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate (Form R)

After "RECORD OF EQUIPMENT OF RADIO FACILITIES FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974," delete "AS MODIFIED BY THE PROTOCOL OF 1988 RELATING THERETO" and add "in accordance with Assembly resolution A.718(17) relating to the early implementation of the harmonized system of survey and certification".

CARGO SHIP SAFETY CERTIFICATE

After "Issued under the provisions of the INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974," delete "as modified by the Protocol of 1988 relating thereto" and add "and in accordance with Assembly resolution A.718(17) relating to the early implementation of the harmonized system of survey and certification".

Record of Equipment for the Cargo Ship Safety Certificate (Form C)

After "RECORD OF EQUIPMENT FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974," delete "AS MODIFIED BY THE PROTOCOL OF 1988 RELATING THERETO" and add "in accordance with Assembly resolution A.718(17) relating to the early implementation of the harmonized system of survey and certification".

INTERNATIONAL LOAD LINE CERTIFICATE (1966)

After "Issued under the provisions of the INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON LOAD LINES, 1966," delete "as modified by the Protocol of 1988 relating thereto" and add "and in accordance with Assembly resolution A.718(17) relating to the early implementation of the harmonized system of survey and certification".

INTERNATIONAL LOAD LINE EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE (1966)

After "Issued under the provisions of the INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON LOAD LINES, 1966," delete "as modified by the Protocol of 1988 relating thereto" and add "and in accordance with Assembly resolution A.718(17) relating to the early implementation of the harmonized system of survey and certification".

INTERNATIONAL OIL POLLUTION PREVENTION CERTIFICATE

In the paragraph commencing "Issued under . . ." delete "and as amended by resolution MEPC.39(29)" and add an asterisk. Add in a convenient position on the certificate the following:

"* and in accordance with Assembly resolution A.718(17) relating to the early implementation of the harmonized system of survey and certification."

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS FOR THE CARRIAGE OF DANGEROUS CHEMICALS IN BULK

Under "INTERNATIONAL CODE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT OF SHIPS CARRYING DANGEROUS CHEMICALS IN BULK (resolutions MSC.4(48) and MEPC.19(22))" delete "as amended by resolutions MSC.16(58) and MEPC.40(29)" and add "and resolution A.718(17) relating to the early implementation of the harmonized system of survey and certification".

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS FOR THE CARRIAGE OF LIQUEFIED GASES IN BULK

Under "INTERNATIONAL CODE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT OF SHIPS CARRYING LIQUEFIED GASES IN BULK (resolution MSC.5(48))" delete "as amended by resolution MSC.17(58)" and add "and resolution A.718(17) relating to the early implementation of the harmonized system of survey and certification".

CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS FOR THE CARRIAGE OF DANGEROUS CHEMICALS IN BULK

Under "CODE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT OF SHIPS CARRYING DANGEROUS CHEMICALS IN BULK (resolution MEPC.20(22) and resolution MSC.9(53)) delete "as amended by resolution MEPC.41(29) and resolution MSC.18(58)" and add "and resolution A.718(17) relating to the early implementation of the harmonized system of survey and certification".

INTERNATIONAL POLLUTION PREVENTION CERTIFICATE FOR THE CARRIAGE OF NOXIOUS LIQUID SUBSTANCES IN BULK

In the paragraph commencing "Issued under . . ." delete "and as amended by resolution MEPC.39(29)" and add an asterisk. Add in a convenient position on the certificate the following:

*** and in accordance with Assembly resolution A.718(17) relating to the the early implementation of the harmonized system of survey and certification."*

Annex 2

INTRODUCTION OF THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF SURVEY AND CERTIFICATION

- 1** The current certificates that are on board a particular ship at the time the flag State decides to implement the harmonized system of survey and certification in accordance with this resolution remain in force until they expire.
- 2** It will then be necessary for the owner, in agreement with the Administration and any recognized organizations that issue certificates on their behalf, to decide on a mutually convenient date on which to introduce the harmonized system of survey and certification for the particular ship.
- 3** It may be decided that the mutually convenient date is the expiry date of one of the existing certificates having a five-year period of validity but the date of the introduction of the harmonized system of survey and certification for a particular ship should not be later than the expiry date of the Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate.
- 4** Notwithstanding that some certificates may still be in force, when the harmonized system of survey and certification is introduced on a particular ship, renewal surveys would be carried out whether or not they are due and the ship issued with a new set of the relevant certificates. However, consideration may be given to accepting renewal surveys that have been carried out within three months of the date of introduction of the system.
- 5** In order to ensure that the ship has valid certificates it may be necessary to renew existing certificates that have only one- or two-year periods of validity or to issue short-term certificates so that all the certificates are then renewed on the date when the harmonized system of survey and certification is introduced for the particular ship.
- 6** When implementing the harmonized system of survey and certification in accordance with this resolution it should be applied to all types of ships and in respect of all relevant instruments.