

**RESOLUTION A.576(14)**

*Adopted on 20 November 1985  
Agenda item 10(b)*

**STANDARDS FOR SKIPPERS AND OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF  
A NAVIGATIONAL WATCH ON FISHING VESSELS OF  
LESS THAN 24 METRES IN LENGTH OPERATING  
IN UNLIMITED AND LIMITED WATERS**

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 regulation V/13 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, which requires Contracting Governments to undertake, each for its national ships, to maintain or, if necessary, to adopt, measures for the purpose of ensuring that from the point of view of safety of life at sea all ships shall be sufficiently and efficiently manned,

NOTING ALSO that the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, is not applicable to fishing vessels,

CONSIDERING resolution 8 of the International Conference on Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977, which invites the Organization to consider the training and certification of crews of fishing vessels,

DESIRING to promote safety of life at sea and protection of the marine environment,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendation made by the Maritime Safety Committee at its fiftieth session,

1. ADOPTS the Recommendation on Standards for Skippers and Officers in Charge of a Navigational Watch on Fishing Vessels of less than 24 Metres in Length Operating in Unlimited and Limited Waters, set out in the Annex to the present resolution;
2. URGES Member Governments to implement this Recommendation.

ANNEX

**RECOMMENDATION ON STANDARDS FOR SKIPPERS AND OFFICERS  
IN CHARGE OF A NAVIGATIONAL WATCH ON FISHING VESSELS  
OF LESS THAN 24 METRES IN LENGTH OPERATING  
IN UNLIMITED AND LIMITED WATERS**

1 So far as it is reasonable and practicable to do so, having regard to the size of vessels concerned, the Administration should make provisions for skippers and officers in charge of a navigational watch on fishing vessels of less than 24 m in length to have adequate knowledge, as appropriate, for the safe operation of such vessels, bearing in mind the safety of all ships which may be operating in the same waters and the need for a safe navigational watch to be kept on the fishing vessels concerned.

2 Unless the Administration is satisfied that the size of the fishing vessel and the conditions of its voyage would render it unreasonable or impracticable, every skipper and officer in charge of a navigational watch serving on a fishing vessel of less than 24 m in length operating in unlimited waters should hold a certificate recognized by the Administration.

3 In considering the requirements for skippers and officers in charge of a navigational watch on fishing vessels of less than 24 m in length, the Administration should *inter alia* take into account the need for sufficient knowledge of:

- .1 navigation;
- .2 International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea;
- .3 compass;
- .4 communications;
- .5 fire prevention and fire-fighting appliances;
- .6 life saving;
- .7 emergency procedures;
- .8 vessel manoeuvring;
- .9 vessel stability;
- .10 meteorology;
- .11 small vessel power plants;
- .12 first aid;
- .13 search and rescue; and
- .14 prevention of pollution of the marine environment.

4 In addition, the Administration should take into account the need for skippers and officers in charge of a navigational watch on such vessels to have the ability to operate safely all navigational aids and equipment normally fitted aboard the vessels concerned.