

Resolution A.716(17)

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

**THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME DANGEROUS GOODS CODE
(IMDG CODE)**

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 resolution A.299(VIII) by which it urged Member States to accord full support to and co-operation in fostering the adoption of a single internationally approved system for identifying, classifying and labelling dangerous or hazardous cargo which would be applicable to all modes of transport,

RECALLING FURTHER resolutions A.81(IV), A.120(V) and A.230(VII) by which it approved the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG Code), its annexes and supplements, and recommended its adoption so as to obtain harmonization of national regulations and facilitate the international traffic of cargoes covered by the IMDG Code,

RECALLING FURTHER resolution A.435(XI) by which it urged Governments concerned to use the recommendations on the safe transport, handling and storage of dangerous substances in port areas in conjunction with their national requirements and any relevant international recommendations in respect of the safe transport, handling and storage of dangerous substances in their port areas,

NOTING that resolution A.345(IX) by which it adopted a recommendation on marking and labelling of dangerous goods has been included in regulation 4 of chapter VII of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS), through an appropriate amendment,

REALIZING that the continuous increase in the transport of dangerous, hazardous and harmful cargoes, including environmentally hazardous substances (marine pollutants) and wastes, requires unification of national, regional and international rules governing such transport,

CONVINCED that the unification of the rules will greatly benefit international maritime traffic and trade in such cargoes,

BEARING IN MIND the regulations relating to the safe carriage of dangerous goods by sea as set out in SOLAS chapter VII, in particular regulation 1.4 thereof, by which Contracting Governments are obliged to issue, or cause to be issued, detailed instructions for the safe packing and stowage of dangerous goods which shall include the precautions necessary in relation to other cargo,

BEARING ALSO IN MIND the regulations set forth in annex III of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973/78, relating to the carriage of harmful substances by sea in packaged form, in particular regulation 1.3 of that annex by which the Government of each Party to the Convention is obliged to issue or cause to be issued, detailed requirements on packing, marking and labelling, documentation, stowage, quantity limitations and exceptions for preventing or minimizing pollution of the marine environment by harmful substances,

BEARING FURTHER IN MIND that the Marine Environment Protection Committee, at its twenty-first session in 1985, decided that annex III should be implemented through the IMDG Code and that this decision was endorsed by the Maritime Safety Committee at its fifty-first session in 1985,

NOTING that this has been done by means of amendment 25-89 to the IMDG Code, covering safety-related and marine pollution prevention provisions, which had to be implemented as from 1 January 1991,

MINDFUL that Governments have been requested to provide information to the Organization on the present status of implementation of the IMDG Code, its annexes and supplements and to indicate the significant deviations from its provisions, if the Code has been only partially implemented through other means,

1. URGES Governments which have not hitherto implemented the IMDG Code to adopt it as the basis of their national regulations on this matter in order to ensure safe and unobstructed international transport of dangerous, hazardous and harmful cargoes, including environmentally hazardous substances (marine pollutants) and wastes, by sea;
2. AUTHORIZES the Maritime Safety Committee to adopt amendments to the IMDG Code, its annexes and supplements, including the recommendations on the safe transport, handling and storage of dangerous substances in port areas, which do not affect the principles on which the Code is based;
3. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to publish the IMDG Code, its annexes and supplements and any amendments thereto in the working languages of the Organization for distribution (two copies each) to Member States and to States which participated in the International Conference on Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, and for general sale;
4. REVOKES resolutions A.81(IV), A.120(V), A.230(VII), A.299(VIII), A.345(IX) and A.435(XI).