

Introduction

At its 108th session (15 to 24 May 2024), the Maritime Safety Committee approved the revised Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information. This manual, prepared by the World Meteorological Organization and the International Hydrographic Organization, was also agreed upon by the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications, and Search and Rescue (NCSR) during its tenth session (10 to 19 May 2023).

The Manual offers comprehensive guidance and examples for composing navigational warnings, meteorological warnings, and forecast messages. To ensure consistency, the circulars and publications published in Spanish and French languages will provide examples of messages from the Manual exclusively in English. The implementation of this revised Manual is scheduled for 1 January 2025.

Maritime Safety Information (MSI)

SOLAS regulation IV/12.2 provides that "Every ship, while at sea, shall maintain a radio watch for broadcasts of maritime safety information on the appropriate frequency or frequencies on which such information is broadcast for the area in which the ship is navigating".



This Manual provides a practical guide for anyone who is concerned with drafting navigational warnings or with the issuance of meteorological warnings and forecasts under the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS). Maritime safety information (MSI) means navigational and meteorological warnings, meteorological forecasts and other urgent safety-related messages broadcast to ships. This information is disseminated in compliance with the provisions of IMO resolution A. 705(17), as amended.

Navigational warning means a message containing urgent information relevant to safe navigation broadcast to ships in accordance with the provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974. These warnings are issued through the IMO/International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) World-Wide Navigational Warning Service (WWNWS) in accordance with IMO resolution A. 706(17), as amended.

Meteorological information means the marine meteorological warning and forecast information in accordance with the provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974. Meteorological warnings and forecasts are issued under the auspices of the IMO/World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Worldwide Met-Ocean Information and Warnings Service (WWMIWS) in accordance with IMO resolution A. 1051(27), as amended.

Within this Manual, the primary aim is to provide optimal wording for all types of navigational warnings and meteorological warnings and forecasts that must be broadcast in English. We have also considered the IMO standard marine communication phrases (IMO resolution A. 918(22)) where relevant. While the Manual cannot offer specific specimen texts for every possible event, the principles outlined herein can be broadly applied to drafting messages for various navigational warnings, hazards, and the issuance of meteorological warnings and forecasts.

The complete revised manual is available in the attached file.

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