
IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases (SMCPs)

Notice to Nautical Colleges, Shipowners, Masters, Officers and Crews of Merchant Ships and Fishing Vessels

1. At its 68th session (May/June 1997), the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) considered the draft "Standard Marine Communication Phrases" (SMCPs) prepared by the Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation. The draft document has been issued as the annex to MSC Circular 794, dated 10 June 1997.

2. Member Governments are requested to conduct trials using the SMCP on board ships and to encourage its use by maritime training institutes, search and rescue organisations, hydrographic offices, VTS personnel, pilots, port authorities and by any others involved in maritime communications. This is a lengthy document and the Marine Safety Agency is unable to provide large numbers of copies. However, copies have been forwarded to shipping companies through the Chamber of Shipping and to United Kingdom nautical colleges.

3. Results of trials should be reported back to IMO by Member Governments before March 1999 in order that the SMCPs can be finalised at the 45th session of the Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation.

4. Comments from users on the practical application of the SMCPs should be submitted to:

The Chief Surveyor
Navigation & Communications
MSAS(A)
Marine Safety Agency
Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
Southampton
SO15 1EG
Tel 01703 329138
Fax 01703 329204

5. Because of this development, M Notice M.1252 (Standard Marine Navigational Vocabulary), although still valid, will not be reissued or reprinted pending the outcome of SMCP trials.

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