



Ref. T2/2.04

USE OF RADAR TRANSPONDERS ON SHIPS FOR SAFETY PURPOSES

1 At its sixtieth session, the Maritime Safety Committee approved dissemination of an SN circular on the use of radar transponders on ships for safety purposes, which, at the request of the Committee, is brought to the attention of Member Governments.

2 Resolution A.615(15) recommends that Administrations, which permit radar transponders to be used on ships for safety purposes, should prepare guidelines to ensure that no misunderstandings should occur in the use or identification of the transponders.

3 In establishing guidelines on the use of radar transponders on ships, Administrations concerned should take into account the following:

- .1 ships and maritime activities permitted to be marked by transponders should, in order to ensure safe identification and proper actions by other ships, conform to criteria developed by the Administrations concerned and notified to IMO;
- .2 to avoid causing confusion on radar displays and to ensure proper identification of radar beacons (racons) in the area, the use of radar transponders in congested or constrained waters should be limited;
- .3 to enable different categories of ships and activities provided with transponders to be identified, the minimum number of coding signals necessary should be determined by the Administration concerned and notified to IMO; and
- .4 the length of coding signals used to identify particular ships or maritime activities should take account of the probable range scale in use on the radar of the receiving ship.