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IMCO

SIGNALS INDICATING THE INTENTION TO MANOEUVRE

Experimental use on board certain Netherlands' ships

Following a discussion on this subject at the fifteenth session of the Maritime Safety Committee and at the request of the Government of the Netherlands, the following information is communicated to Member Governments:

(a) four Netherlands ships, namely m/v, MOERDIJK, MERCURIUS, NEPTUNUS and AMSTELSTROOM are at present equipped with "turn signals" as described in the Annex;

(b) the Netherlands Government also intends to equip the ships WISSEKERK, WESTERKERK, WILLEMSKERK and WAALKERK with similar devices;

(c) the aim of conducting these tests is to promote safety of life at sea by using a lighted arrow to indicate to other ships the direction in which the ship showing the signal intends to turn;

(d) the visual "turn signal" is displayed solely to complement the standard whistle signals required by the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea and does not replace or eliminate their use;

(e) a description of the system appears in the Annex which is an extract from document MSC XV/10/Add.2.

Member Governments are invited to bring this information to the attention of all concerned.

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ANNEX

"Turn Signal"

1. The "turn signal" consists of an illuminated arrow, white in colour, about 6 metres (20 feet) long, mounted on the forepart of the foremast and visible all round the horizon. In normal visibility conditions this arrow is visible by night to the naked eye at a distance of 2 nautical miles.
  2. The point of the lighted arrow indicates the following: the ship showing the signal is altering course to the direction indicated by the point of the arrow.
  3. It is specifically emphasized that the arrow signals indicate the direction in which the ship is turning and are not intended to indicate action by the receiving ship.
  4. To assist in the evaluation of these experimental turn signals, masters or other officers in command of vessels, when observing the signal, are requested to forward their comments to the master of the ship concerned, which shows this visual signal.
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