

ANNEX 17

**RESOLUTION MSC.109(73)
(adopted on 6 December 2000)****CARRIAGE OF VOYAGE DATA RECORDERS (VDRs)
ON EXISTING CARGO SHIPS**

THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 28(a) of the Convention of the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Maritime Safety Committee,

HAVING ADOPTED, by resolution MSC.99(73), amendments to chapter V of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (hereinafter referred to as the "Convention"), in particular, regulation V/20 concerning the carriage requirements of voyage data recorders (VDRs),

NOTING that the aforementioned amendments to the Convention do not include requirements for existing cargo ships to carry VDRs,

1. DECIDES that a study should be carried out, as a matter of urgency, to assess the feasibility of installing VDRs on existing cargo ships;
2. INVITES Member States concerned to:
 - .1 submit data to enable the NAV Sub-Committee to conduct a feasibility study of mandatory carriage of VDRs on existing cargo ships of sizes to be recommended; and
 - .2 encourage shipowners to install VDRs on existing cargo ships on a voluntary basis, so that wide experience may be gained from their use.
3. INSTRUCTS the NAV Sub-Committee, in co-operation with other sub-committees as appropriate:
 - .1 to carry out the feasibility study, taking into account such factors as:
 - .1 practicability;
 - .2 technical problems relating to the retrofitting of VDRs;
 - .3 adequacy of existing performance standards, including the possible development of simplified standards;
 - .4 experience in the use of VDRs on ships already fitted with them, including data that could not have been obtained without VDR; and
 - .5 relevant financial implications, including a cost benefit analysis.

- .2 if the study clearly demonstrates the compelling need for mandatory carriage of VDRs on existing cargo ships, to prepare appropriate draft amendments to chapter V of the Convention and associated performance standards, for consideration by the Committee and action as appropriate; and
 - .3 finalize the study not later than 1 January 2004.
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