



[T2/2.047]

## IMCO

### MARITIME METEOROLOGY

1. The Maritime Safety Committee, at its twenty-third session (15-19 March 1971) received a report on Requirements for Marine Meteorological Services, prepared by an appropriate body of the World Meteorological Organization. The report dealt, among other things, with subjects of direct interest to safety at sea. The following is a summary of relevant conclusions:

(a) Radio facsimile

The presentation of weather information for mariners and fishermen via facsimile should be provided in such a way that on receipt no further analysing would be required for either navigation or safety purposes. Standard symbols which can be easily interpreted by mariners were needed for use on facsimile charts; the establishment of a separate service intended for mariners should be considered. On facsimile charts intended for international marine use printed information, when possible, should be in English in addition to the language of the country in which the chart originated.

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(b) Radiotelephony

As the use of radiotelephony was increasing there was a need for a standard voice code and a standard condensed meteorological vocabulary. The value was stressed of continuous and/or scheduled VHF weather broadcasts to ships in coastal areas and harbours and to fishermen who are frequently unable to receive information by other means. Mother-ships of fishing fleets, transmitting weather information to the smaller ships by voice, should broadcast this information also in English for the benefit of other fishing vessels.

(c) Weather routing

It was necessary to consider at international level and to establish all the data requirements for weather routing, including environmental information.

(d) Languages

Storm warnings, synopsis of meteorological conditions and forecasts should be transmitted in the language of the issuing Member and in English.

2. The Committee requested that the above information be brought to the attention of Member Governments for their consideration and action as necessary.

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