

RESOLUTION 351 (Rev.WRC-07)

Review of the frequency and channel arrangements in the HF bands allocated to the maritime mobile service contained in Appendix 17 with a view to improving efficiency through the use of new digital technology by the maritime mobile service

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2007),

considering

- a) that the introduction of new digital technology in the maritime mobile service (MMS) shall not disrupt the distress and safety communications in the HF bands including those established by the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended;
- b) that changes made in Appendix 17 should not prejudice the future use of these frequencies or the capabilities of systems or new applications required for use by the MMS;
- c) that the need to use new digital technologies in the MMS is growing rapidly;
- d) that the use of new digital technology on HF frequencies allocated to the MMS will make it possible to better respond to the emerging demand for new services;
- e) that the HF bands allocated to the MMS for A1A Morse telegraphy and narrow-band direct-printing (NBDP) contained in Appendix 17 are significantly under-utilized at present;
- f) that there are new HF data exchange technologies capable of delivering maritime safety information;
- g) that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) supports the frequencies of Appendix 15, concerning NBDP, being retained for the foreseeable future;
- h) that the ITU Radiocommunication Sector is conducting ongoing studies to improve the efficient use of these bands,

noting

- a) that different digital technologies have already been developed and are in use in the HF bands in several radiocommunication services;
- b) that new maritime HF data transfer protocols have already been developed and are in operation using Appendix 17 frequencies and other frequencies outside Appendix 17,

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resolves

to invite WRC-11 to consider necessary changes to Appendix 17 in order to implement the use of new technology by MMS, in accordance with *invites ITU-R*,

invites ITU-R

to finalize studies currently ongoing:

- to identify any necessary modifications to the frequency table contained within Appendix 17;
- to identify any necessary transition arrangements for the introduction of new digital technologies and any consequential changes to Appendix 17;
- to recommend how digital technologies can be introduced while ensuring compliance with distress and safety requirements,

encourages Member States

when contributing to the implementation of this Resolution, to take into consideration other modifications to Articles and Appendices as necessary,

instructs the Secretary-General

to bring this Resolution to the attention of IMO, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), the Comité International Radio-Maritime (CIRM), and International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).