

Resolution A.707(17)
Adopted on 6 November 1991
(Agenda item 10)

**CHARGES FOR DISTRESS, URGENCY AND SAFETY MESSAGES
THROUGH THE INMARSAT SYSTEM**

THE ASSEMBLY

RECALLING Article 15(j) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly in relation to regulations and guidelines concerning maritime safety,

RECALLING ALSO resolution 2 adopted by the International Conference on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, which recommends that States should arrange that participation in ship reporting systems shall be free of message cost to the ships concerned,

RECALLING FURTHER resolution 6 adopted by the 1988 Conference of Contracting Governments to SOLAS 1974 on the global maritime distress and safety system (GMDSS) which requests the Maritime Safety Committee to review funding arrangements prior to the implementation date of the GMDSS,

BEARING IN MIND that the existing terrestrial maritime radiocommunication services for distress, urgency and safety messages are free of charge to shipping,

NOTING that INMARSAT accounts with its coast earth station operators for all communications other than the initial distress call and message,

NOTING ALSO that the Joint IMO/INMARSAT Meeting on Funding for Maritime Distress and Safety Communications (4-7 December 1990) made further recommendations regarding the treatment of INMARSAT space segment charges as shown in the service/charging matrix for distress and safety communications through the INMARSAT system, set out in the annex to the present resolution, as well as, review arrangements,

NOTING FURTHER that the thirty-eighth session of the INMARSAT Council had agreed to the recommendations of the Director-General of INMARSAT regarding the treatment of maritime distress and safety communications which were based on the service/charging matrix set out in the annex to the present resolution,

FURTHER NOTING that the charges to ships and land subscribers for communication services provided via the INMARSAT system are established by national telecommunication entities in conformity with national policies and practices,

RECOGNIZING the advantages of the INMARSAT service for distress, urgency and safety purposes,

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that funding arrangements remain to be agreed at national level for coast earth stations and landline charges related to the traffic covered by the recommendations of the Joint IMO/INMARSAT Meeting,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendation made by the Maritime Safety Committee at its fifty-ninth session,

1. RECOMMENDS that States having coast earth stations under their jurisdiction arrange that the following transmissions through the INMARSAT system shall be free of charge:
 - ship-to-shore and shore-to-ship distress traffic;
 - urgent ship-to-shore navigational and meteorological danger reports using record communications; and
 - medical assistance for persons in grave and imminent danger;
2. RECOMMENDS ALSO that States make every effort, consistent with domestic laws and policies, to arrange that meteorological reports, ship position reports and medical advice and assistance messages other than those referred to in paragraph 1, transmitted through the INMARSAT system, shall be free of charge to shipping;
3. RECOMMENDS FURTHER that States should put suitable arrangements in place for the treatment of coast earth station and landline charges prior to the entry into force of the 1988 SOLAS amendments to introduce the GMDSS on 1 February 1992;
4. REVOKES resolution A.523(13).

Annex

SERVICE/CHARGING MATRIX FOR DISTRESS AND SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS THROUGH THE INMARSAT SYSTEM

Service	Recommendations of Joint IMO/INMARSAT Meeting			INMARSAT Council decisions	Current coast earth station (CES) practice ⁷
	Charge to originator? ¹	Charge to addressee? ¹	Space segment ²		
Ship-to-shore (a) Distress alerts (b) SAR-coordination (including communications subsequent to initial distress alerts)	No	No	No charge	No space segment charge Reduced INMARSAT-A space segment charge for calls to associated RCCs. ⁸ Calls to other RCCs are charged at the standard space segment rate. Currently charged at the standard space segment rate	No CES charges One CES makes no charge to ships via Code 39 as these costs are funded by governments. All other CESs charge at the standard rate. Several CESs make no charge to ships via Code 41 as these costs are funded by governments. Other CESs charge at the standard rate. Some CESs have announced end-user charges of around US\$0.10 for INMARSAT-C short data reports. ⁹
	No	No	No charge for voice or record ¹⁰ calls to associated RCCs via Code 39 ⁴		
(c) Meteorological reports	No ³	Yes	Standard INMARSAT-A, INMARSAT-C, or INMARSAT-C short data report charge	Currently charged at the standard space segment rate	Several CESs make no charge to ships via Code 41 as these costs are funded by governments. Other CESs charge at the standard rate. Some CESs have announced end-user charges of around US\$0.10 for INMARSAT-C short data reports. ⁹
(d) Urgent navigational/meteorological danger reports	No ³	No	No charge via record ¹⁰ communications using Code 42	Reduced INMARSAT-A space segment charge via telex/teletype record comms using Code 42. ⁸ Other reports charged at the applicable standard space segment rate. Currently charged at the standard space segment rate	Two CESs make no charge to ships as these costs are funded by governments. Other CESs charge at the standard rate.
(e) Ship reports	No ³	Yes	Standard INMARSAT-A, INMARSAT-C or INMARSAT-C short data report charge	Currently charged at the standard space segment rate	Several CESs accept position reports at no charge to ships via Code 43 as these costs are funded by governments. Other CESs charge at the standard rate. Some CESs have announced end-user charges of around US\$0.10 for INMARSAT-C short data reports. ⁹
(f) Medical advice	No ⁵	Yes	Special INMARSAT-A and INMARSAT-C charges via Code 32. Other requests for medical advice at standard charges levied on the originator or the addressee, as may be decided by the Administration.	Currently charged at the standard space segment rate	Several CESs make no charge to ships via Code 32 as these costs are funded by governments. Other CESs charge at the standard rate.

Service/charging matrix for distress and safety communications through the INMARSAT system (cont.)

Service	Recommendations of Joint IMO/INMARSAT Meeting			INMARSAT Council decisions	Current coast earth station (CES) practice ⁷
	Charge to originator? ¹	Charge to addressee? ¹	Space segment ²		
Ship-to-shore (cont.) (g) Medical assistance for grave and imminent danger	No	No	No charge via Code 38 to an agency recognized by Administrations. Other requests for medical assistance at standard charges levied on the originator or the addressee, as may be decided by the Administration.	Currently charged at the standard space segment rate	Several CESs make no charge to ships via Code 38 as these costs are funded by governments. Other CESs charge at the standard rate.
Shore-to-ship (a) Distress alerts	No	No	No charge	No space segment charge ⁸	Not known
(b) SAR-coordination (including communications subsequent to initial distress alerts)	No	No	No charge for voice or record communications from associated RCCs to ships and when relating to the immediate assistance required by a ship in distress and in grave and imminent danger	Reduced space segment charge for calls from associated RCCs ⁸	Not known
(c) Meteorological forecast	Yes	—	Standard ⁶ SafetyNET™ charge	SafetyNET™ space segment charge	Several CESs have indicated end-user charges in the vicinity of US\$0.50 per kbit
(d) Meteorological warnings	Yes	—	Standard ⁶ SafetyNET™ charge	SafetyNET™ space segment charge	Several CESs have indicated end-user charges in the vicinity of US\$0.50 per kbit
(e) Navigational warnings	Yes	—	Standard ⁶ SafetyNET™ charge	SafetyNET™ space segment charge	Several CESs have indicated end-user charges in the vicinity of US\$0.50 per kbit
(f) Other urgent messages	Yes	—	Standard ⁶ SafetyNET™ charge	SafetyNET™ space segment charge	Several CESs have indicated end-user charges in the vicinity of US\$0.50 per kbit
(g) Medical advice	Yes	No	Standard	SafetyNET™ space segment charge	Several CESs have indicated end-user charges in the vicinity of US\$0.50 per kbit
(h) Medical assistance	No	No	No charge for calls from agencies recognized by Administrations		

Notes

- 1 Space segment and coast earth station elements only; excludes landline charges.
- 2 See definitions of charges.
- 3 No charge to originator if sent via record communications.
- 4 In the unlikely event of difficulty in securing a connection, ships may use priority 3 at no charge.
- 5 Only to recognized medical authorities.
- 6 Via SafetyNET™.
- 7 Subject to confirmation by individual CES owners.
- 8 Not yet implemented.
- 9 INMARSAT-C short data reports consist of up to 32 bytes of binary encoded user information. Data formats have been developed for meteorological and ship position reports.
- 10 Record is defined as all types of INMARSAT communications other than those via voice channels.

INMARSAT two-digit codes for safety services

Abbreviated dialling codes have been established in the INMARSAT system, for use by CESs which desire to use them, to enable automatic routing of specific types of calls from ships to the appropriate addresses. The following two-digit codes pertain to safety services:

- 32 – Request for medical advice
- 38 – Request for medical assistance
- 39 – Request for maritime assistance
- 41 – Shipment of meteorological data
- 42 – Shipment of meteorological data and navigational dangers
- 43 – Ship reports

Definitions (space segment only)

No charge	No charges are levied by INMARSAT. INMARSAT will absorb the costs.
Standard charge	Standard space segment utilization charges for the particular INMARSAT service which are levied by INMARSAT on coast earth station operators.
Special charge	Special charge segment utilization charges levied by INMARSAT on coast earth station operators and at a lower tariff than standard charges.

Resolution A.689(17) (cont.)

131 *Paragraph 6.18.12: The formula should read:*

$$\sqrt{\left(\frac{d_x}{S_x}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{d_y}{S_y}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{d_z}{S_z}\right)^2} \leq 1$$

Resolution A.705(17)

206 *Paragraph 2.1.6: For "International NAVTEX service" read "NAVTEX".*

Resolution A.707(17)

223 *In the notes at the end of the service/charging matrix, under the heading "Definitions (space segment only)" and the subheading "Special charge", for "special charge segment" read "special space segment".*

Resolution A.714(17)

276 *Annex 9: The title of the annex should read "Safe stowage and securing of metal scrap in bulk".*

Resolution A.719(17)

326 *In the heading, for "Agenda item 10", read "Agenda item 12".*

Resolution A.730(17)

397 *Part A, paragraph 2(a), line 1 (Meetings and travel): For "[£]1,756,000" read "[£]1,756,300".*

398 *Part A, paragraph 4: In the second line, for "1993 appropriations ad assessment figures" read "1993 appropriations and assessment figures".*

Part B: In the paragraph beginning "NOTING that", for "the level of" read "the authorized level of".

401 *Annex 3: In the heading, for "PROPOSED" read "APPROVED". The same change should also be made in the same heading in the table of contents on page viii.*