

**RESOLUTION A.439(XI)**

*Adopted on 15 November 1979  
Agenda item 10(b)*

**IMCO SEARCH AND RESCUE MANUAL**

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 16(i) of the Convention on the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly,

NOTING that the Maritime Safety Committee at its thirty-eighth session approved an IMCO Search and Rescue Manual (IMCOSAR Manual) which has been brought to the attention of all Governments,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendation made by the Maritime Safety Committee at its thirty-eighth session with regard to establishing a procedure for amending and bringing up to date the Manual,

1. ENDORSES the action taken by the Maritime Safety Committee on this matter;
2. ADOPTS the procedure set out in the Annex to the present resolution for amending and updating the IMCOSAR Manual;
3. URGES Governments to use the guidelines provided in the IMCOSAR Manual when establishing or developing their search and rescue organizations;
4. FURTHER URGES Governments to bring the IMCOSAR Manual to the attention of all personnel who may be involved in the provision of search and rescue services.

ANNEX

**PROCEDURES FOR AMENDING AND UPDATING  
THE IMCO SEARCH AND RESCUE MANUAL**

- (a) The Maritime Safety Committee should receive and evaluate, through its subsidiary bodies, proposals for amendments and/or additions to the IMCO Search and Rescue Manual.
- (b) Such proposals should be examined collectively, rather than individually when, in the Maritime Safety Committee's judgement, they are sufficient or of such importance as to warrant examination.
- (c) Amendments adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee shall become applicable after twelve months. For amendments of a very urgent nature this period may be shortened at the discretion of the Committee.
- (d) The active participation of the appropriate specialized agencies and other bodies concerned should be sought according to the nature of the proposed amendments.