

**RESOLUTION A.344(IX)**

*Adopted on 12 November 1975  
Agenda item 7(c)*

**RECOMMENDATION ON SEARCH AND RESCUE SIGNALS  
BETWEEN AIRCRAFT AND SHIPS**

THE ASSEMBLY,

NOTING Article 16(i) of the IMCO Convention concerning the functions of the Assembly,

NOTING FURTHER the amendment to Annex 12 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation concerning search and rescue signals between aircraft and ships,

RECOGNIZING that this amendment necessitates corresponding amendments to Regulation 16(d), Chapter V of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1960,

HAVING CONSIDERED the Report of the Maritime Safety Committee on its thirty-second session concerning amendments to the provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1960, as well as the Report of the Committee on its thirty-third session,

DRAWS ATTENTION to the amendment to Annex 12 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation as listed in the Appendix hereto,

INVITES all governments:

- (a) to bring to the attention of all concerned the new signals used by aircraft engaged on search and rescue operations to direct ships towards an aircraft, ship or person in distress;
- (b) to propose at an appropriate time a relevant amendment to Chapter V of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974.

APPENDIX

**SIGNALS USED BY AIRCRAFT ENGAGED ON SEARCH AND  
RESCUE OPERATIONS TO DIRECT SHIPS TOWARDS  
AN AIRCRAFT, SHIP OR PERSON IN DISTRESS**

**1. Signals with surface craft**

1.1 The following manoeuvres performed in sequence by an aircraft mean that the aircraft wishes to direct a surface craft towards an aircraft or a surface craft in distress:

- (a) circling the surface craft at least once;

- (b) crossing the projected course of the surface craft close ahead at low altitude and:
  - (i) rocking the wings; or
  - (ii) opening and closing the throttle; or
  - (iii) changing the propeller pitch;

**Note:** Due to high noise level on board surface craft, the sound signals in (ii) and (iii) may be less effective than the visual signal in (i) and are regarded as alternative means of attracting attention.

- (c) heading in the direction in which the surface craft is to be directed.

Repetition of such manoeuvres has the same meaning.

- 1.2 The following manoeuvre by an aircraft means that the assistance of the surface craft to which the signal is directed is no longer required:

crossing the wake of the surface craft close astern at a low altitude and:

- (i) rocking the wings; or
- (ii) opening and closing the throttle; or
- (iii) changing the propeller pitch.

**Note:** See Note following 1.1(b).