

Resolution A.853(20)

*Adopted on 27 November 1997
(Agenda item 11)*

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE FOR THE SAFE CARRIAGE OF IRRADIATED
NUCLEAR FUEL, PLUTONIUM AND HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTES IN
FLASKS ON BOARD SHIPS**

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, the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships, and other matters concerning the effect of shipping on the marine environment,

RECALLING further resolution A.748(18) by which the Assembly adopted the Code for the Safe Carriage of Irradiated Nuclear Fuel, Plutonium and High-level Radioactive Wastes in Flasks on Board Ships (INF Code) and, at the same time, requested the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) and the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), in consultation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to keep the INF Code under regular review and to amend it as necessary,

RECALLING ALSO resolution A.790(19) in which the Assembly, after consideration of the report on the progress of work made to it, again requested the MSC and MEPC, in consultation with IAEA and the United Nations Environment Programme, as appropriate, to continue the review of the INF Code as a matter of urgency and to consider, bearing in mind existing international instruments, several specific issues, including in particular the adequacy of existing emergency response arrangements and notification of the coastal States concerned in the event of an incident involving INF Code materials,

NOTING the progress of work made pursuant to resolutions A.748(18) and A.790(19), as reported in the annex to document A 20/11/Add.2,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendations made by the MSC at its sixty-eighth session and by the MEPC at its thirty-ninth session and fortieth session:

1. ADOPTS amendments to the INF Code on shipboard emergency plans and on notification in the event of an incident involving materials subject to the Code as set out at annex to this resolution;
2. URGES Governments to implement these amendments; and
3. REQUESTS the MSC and the MEPC in consultation with IAEA and UNEP to complete the work pursuant to resolution A.790(19) as a matter of urgency and to consider possible improvements to the amended Code based, *inter alia*, on experience gained in its use.

Annex

AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE FOR THE SAFE CARRIAGE OF IRRADIATED NUCLEAR FUEL, PLUTONIUM AND HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTES IN FLASKS ON BOARD SHIPS

Amend paragraph 4 to read as follows:

“All ships, regardless of size, carrying materials covered by this Code should comply with the requirements of SOLAS 74, as amended, and in addition with the requirements as prescribed in table 1 and paragraphs 7 to 30, concerning damage stability, fire protection, temperature control of cargo spaces, structural considerations, cargo securing arrangements, electrical supplies, radiological protection equipment, management training, shipboard emergency plans and notification in the event of an incident involving INF Code materials.”

Amend paragraph 25 and its title to read as follows:

“MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING

25 The management and training for a ship should take account of developments within the Organization to the satisfaction of the Administration concerned.”

Add the following paragraphs and associated titles:

“SHIPBOARD EMERGENCY PLANS

26 Every ship, after 1 July 1998, transporting materials covered by this Code should carry on board a shipboard emergency plan.

27 Such a plan should be approved by the Administration based on the Guidelines* developed by the Organization and written in a working language understood by the masters and officers. At a minimum, the plan should consist of:

- .1 the procedure to be followed by the master or other persons having charge of the ship to report an incident involving INF Code materials, as required by paragraphs 29 and 30 of this Code;
- .2 the list of authorities or persons to be contacted in the event of an incident involving INF Code materials;
- .3 a detailed description of the action to be taken immediately by persons on board to prevent, reduce or control the release, and mitigate the consequences of the loss, of INF Code materials following the incident; and
- .4 the procedures and points of contact on the ship for co-ordinating shipboard action with national and local authorities.

28 If a ship is required to have a shipboard emergency plan by other international instruments, the various plans may be combined into a single plan. In this case, the title of such a combined plan should be “Shipboard Marine Emergency Plan”.

NOTIFICATION IN THE EVENT OF AN INCIDENT INVOLVING INF CODE MATERIALS

29 The reporting requirements of regulation VII/7-1 of SOLAS should apply both to the loss or likely loss of INF Code cargo overboard and to any incident involving a release or probable release of INF Code material (e.g. package failure), whatever the reason for such loss or release, including for the purpose of securing the safety of the ship or saving life at sea.

* Refer to Guidelines for Developing Shipboard Emergency Plans for Ships Carrying Materials Subject to the INF Code adopted by the Assembly by resolution A.854(20).

30 Such a report should also be made in the event of damage, failure or breakdown of a ship carrying materials covered by this Code which:

- .1 affects the safety of the ship, including, but not limited to, collision, grounding, fire, explosion, structural failure, flooding and cargo shifting; or
- .2 results in the impairment of the safety of navigation, including, but not limited to, the failure or breakdown of steering gear, propulsion system, electrical generating system and essential shipborne navigational aids.”

Replace table 1 with the following

Table 1: Requirements for ships carrying irradiated nuclear fuel, plutonium and high-level radioactive wastes in flasks on board ships

Ship class	Damage stability		Fire protection		Temperature control of cargo spaces	Structural considerations	Cargo securing arrangements	Electrical supplies	Radiological protection equipment	Management training	Shipboard emergency plans	Notification in the event of an incident
	Passenger ships*	Cargo ships	Passenger ships*	Cargo ships								
INF 1	7	7	11	11	14 + 15 + 16	17	18 + 19	20	24	25	26 + 27 + 28	29 + 30
INF 2	8	9	13	13	14 + 15 + 16	17	18 + 19	21 + 22	24	25	26 + 27 + 28	29 + 30
INF 3	N/A	10	N/A	12 + 13	14 + 15 + 16	17	18 + 19	21 + 22 + 23	24	25	26 + 27 + 28	29 + 30

N/A: INF 3 not allowed on passenger ships.

* As defined in SOLAS 74, chapter I, part A, regulation 2(f).