

RESOLUTION A.438(XI)

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

**TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION OF PERSONS IN CHARGE OF
MEDICAL CARE ABOARD SHIP**

THE ASSEMBLY,

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

CONSIDERING *the serious dangers to human life and safety when sickness and accidents occur and are not properly treated owing to the limited medical training of personnel aboard ships at sea,*

RECALLING ALSO the existing internationally accepted instruments and publications which relate to medical training and, in particular, the resolution by the Joint ILO/WHO Committee on the Health of Seafarers in 1973, the ILO/IMCO Document for Guidance, 1975, and the relevant provisions of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978,

RECOGNIZING that many ships which do not carry doctors are often in an isolated situation at sea where reliance must be placed upon the medical training of those on board.

DESIRING to improve the level of safety in such ships by establishing a reasonable minimum standard of theoretical and practical medical training beyond first aid level for persons placed in charge of medical care aboard ships at sea as part of their regular duties,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendation made by the Maritime Safety Committee at its forty-first session,

1. RECOMMENDS that:

- (a) All ships which are engaged in voyages of more than 600 nautical miles in length during which the ship is more than 200 nautical miles from a place of safety, and which do not carry a doctor, carry at least one person who has satisfactorily completed a course of more advanced training in medical care;
- (b) The advanced medical training referred to in subparagraph (a) above be provided by a specified programme, of appropriate content and number of hours, in practical and theoretical medical training beyond the level of first aid;

2. INVITES all Member Governments to implement as soon as practicable the provisions of the recommendations contained in the present resolution without awaiting the outcome of the work of the Joint ILO/WHO Committee on the Health of Seafarers in developing outline syllabuses for medical training.