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ICAO/IMO JWG ON HARMONIZATION OF  
AERONAUTICAL AND MARITIME SAR  
14th session  
Agenda item 3.4

ICAO/IMO JWG 14/3-WP/2  
28 June 2007  
ENGLISH ONLY

**PROVISIONS OF CONVENTIONS, PLANS, MANUALS AND  
OTHER DOCUMENTS AFFECTING SAR:**

**Further work on the IAMSAR Manual, availability for training – institutions,  
priority items for amendments**

**Revision of the IAMSAR Manual – Reference to the IMO Standard Marine  
Communication Phrases (SMCP)**

**Note by Sweden**

**SUMMARY**

<b><i>Executive summary:</i></b>	This document proposes amendments to the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Manual regarding reference to the IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases (SMCP) as specified in the Annex.
<b><i>Action to be taken:</i></b>	Paragraph 2.
<b><i>Related documents:</i></b>	IMO Resolution A.918 (22); the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In November 2001, the IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases (SMCP) was adopted by the Assembly as resolution A.918 (22). This resolution revoked resolution A.380 (X), by which the Standard Marine Navigational Vocabulary was adopted in 1977.

1.2 The International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, as amended describes in the Annex, Chapter 2 – *Organization and co-ordination*; paragraph 2.3.3 that:

“Each rescue co-ordination centre shall be operational on a 24-hour basis and be constantly staffed by trained personnel having a working knowledge of the English language.”

and reference is made to the Search and Rescue section of the IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases (resolution A.918(22)).

1.3 As the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual refer to the revoked resolution A.380 (X) *Standard Marine Navigational Vocabulary*, it is proposed to amend the Manual to refer to resolution A.918(22) instead.

## 2. ACTION BY THE ICAO/IMO JWG

2.1 The ICAO/IMO JWG is invited to consider the proposed IAMSAR Manual amendments and take action as appropriate.

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## ANNEX

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE IAMSAR MANUAL ON STANDARD MARINE  
COMMUNICATION PHRASES**

It is proposed that the following changes be made to Volumes I, II and III as referred to below (new text is underlined; text recommended for deletion is crossed out);

**Vol. I****Chapter 4 - Communications**

4.2.3 Publications which can be used to overcome language barriers and circumstances among vessels, aircraft, survivors, and SAR personnel include: the International Code of Signals and the ~~Standard Marine Navigational Vocabulary~~ IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases (SMCP). These documents should be included in RCC libraries and be understood by the staff, who should be able to recognize coded messages based on these references. Ships should carry these documents and SRUs should carry the Code.

**IAMSAR Vol. II****Chapter 2 - Communications****2.24 Codes, Signals, and Standard Phrases**

2.24.1 Publications which can be used to overcome language barriers and circumstances among vessels, aircraft, survivors, and SAR personnel include IMO's International Code of Signals\*, International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, and ~~Standard Marine Navigational Vocabulary~~ IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases (SMCP). These documents should be included in RCC libraries, and they should be familiar to the staff, which should be able to recognize coded.

2.24.6 With the decreasing use of Morse Code, the Code and the ~~Standard Marine Navigational Vocabulary~~ IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases (SMCP) will become increasingly important. It may help to refer to these documents in international SAR agreements as standards to use on-scene for operations, training, and exercises when SAR facilities of more than one country are responding to a distress incident.

**Vol. III****Section 3: On-Scene Co-ordination Page 3-15**

*The following paragraph has been amended in 2006 edition of Vol. III. To be in accordance with proposals of Vol. I and II only on word (SMCP) should be added.*

- In case of language difficulties, the International Code of Signals; and  
IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases (SMCP) should be used.

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