



SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING
32nd session
Agenda item 10

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IMO STANDARD MARINE COMMUNICATION PHRASES

Submitted by France

SUMMARY

- Executive summary:** This document contains comments concerning the IMO standard marine communication phrases (SMCPs), as amended by the Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation (46th session) and presents proposed amendments.
- Action to be taken:** Paragraph 9
- Related documents:** NAV 46/16 – draft Assembly resolution – IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases

1 France has studied the draft standard marine communication phrases (SMCPs) and feels it necessary to make a number of specific comments, together with proposed amendments to the existing text.

2 These comments mainly concern the definitions contained in the glossary and are aimed at clarifying or completing them.

Comments and proposals

3 "*Hampered vessel*": in the initial version of the vocabulary adopted by the International Maritime Organization in 1977, the definition of this expression referred only to the nature of the work done. In its new definition, the SMCPs adds considerations of draft to the nature of the work (*A vessel restricted in her ability to manoeuvre by the nature of her work or her deep draft*). This extension of the definition is a source of ambiguity and does not seem acceptable from the point of view of safety of navigation, since the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREG) contain different privileges in each of these situations. Moreover, the expression used in the SMCPs (AI/6.1.19 - amended) for a ship handicapped by her draft is different ("*Constrained by her draft*"), the expression in fact adopted in COLREG. It is therefore proposed:

- .1 to delete from the definition of "*Hampered vessel*" any reference to the situation of ships handicapped by their draft and thus to delete "*or her deep draft*":

- .2 to add a new definition: *"Constrained vessel: A vessel severely restricted by her draft in her ability to deviate from the course followed in relation to the available depth and width of navigable water (COLREG)";*
 - .3 to insert under the heading AI/6.2.1.3 (Traffic information), after 9, a new phrase: *"Vessel constrained by her draft in position ... area ... (course ... degrees ... speed ... knots)".*
- 4 *"Shackle"*: the definition is incomplete and should be expanded as follows:

*"Shackle": Standard length (15 fathoms) of an anchor cable
U-shaped iron closed with a pin used for connecting purposes".*

5 *"To stand on"*: the expression *"to stand on"* is commonly used but should certainly be completed by its counterpart *"to give way"* (*"laisser le passage"*)[?]. A possible definition could be:

- .1 *"To give way: to keep out of the way of another vessel"*

6 *"To veer out"*, *"to walk out"* and *"to walk back"*: the expression *"to veer out"* is defined (*"filer davantage de chaîne"*); however, the expressions really used in the SMCPs are either *"to walk out"* which is inadequately defined, and *"to walk back"*, the definition of which has been overlooked. It is proposed:

- .1 to provide a better definition of the expression *"to walk out" (of anchors)* by adopting the following definition: *"to reverse the action of a windlass to lower the anchor until it is clear of the hawsepipe and ready for dropping" ("Dévirer au guindeau pour mettre l'ancre en pendant parée à être mouillée")**
- .2 to add a definition: *"to walk back" (of anchors): to reverse the action of a windlass to ease the cable" ("Dévirer au guindeau pour soulager la chaîne")**

7 *"Meet her"*, *"Steady"*, *"Steady as she goes"* (AII/1 - Standard Wheel Orders): the expression *"Meet her"* (*"Rencontrez"*)* is now introduced and juxtaposed with the expression *"Steady"*, with rather similar meanings, at least for a French-speaker: *"Check the swing ..."* on the one hand and *"Reduce swing ..."* on the other. Moreover, it should be noted that the expression *"Steady"* is itself often considered to be an abridged form of *"Steady as she goes"* (Ref: Dictionary of Nautical Words and Terms - C.W.T.Layton). This situation is a source of confusion in that the French translation of the expression *"steady"* is inadequate in the existing standard vocabulary *"Doucement la barre"* instead of *"Comme ça"*)*

- .1 It is propose to make the meaning more precise by amending the explanation given as follows: *"Steady: Check the swing of the vessel to bring her to the heading at the time of the order".*

8 France is aware of the translation difficulties which might be encountered in preparing the French version of the final document, and wishes to offer the Organization its full collaboration to bring the work to a successful conclusion.

[?] It is suggested that these French definitions should be left in the various translations of this document

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

9 The Sub-Committee is invited to examine the above comments and proposals formulated by France concerning the standard marine communication phrases and to take such decisions as its deems appropriate.
