

ANNEX 29

**RESOLUTION MSC.494(104)
(adopted on 7 October 2021)**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR SHIPBORNE VOYAGE
DATA RECORDERS (VDRs) (RESOLUTION MSC.333(90))**

THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 28(b) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Committee,

RECALLING ALSO resolution A.886(21), by which the Assembly resolved that the function of adopting performance standards and technical specifications, as well as amendments thereto, shall be performed by the Maritime Safety Committee and/or the Marine Environment Protection Committee, as appropriate, on behalf of the Organization,

RECALLING FURTHER that, by resolution A.861(20), the Assembly, at its twentieth session, adopted the *Performance standards for shipborne voyage data recorders (VDRs)*, which were amended by resolution MSC.214(81),

RECALLING the revised *Performance standards for shipborne voyage data recorders (VDRs)*, adopted by resolution MSC.333(90), which are applicable to VDRs installed on or after 1 July 2014,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the *Performance standards for float-free emergency position-indicating radio beacons (EPIRBs) operating on 406 MHz*, adopted by resolution MSC.471(101), which are applicable to float-free EPIRBs operating in the frequency band 406.0-406.1 MHz which form part of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), installed on or after 1 July 2022,

RECOGNIZING the need to amend resolution MSC.333(90) with respect to float-free recording medium to effect consequential amendments related to the adoption of resolution MSC.471(101),

HAVING CONSIDERED, at its 104th session, the recommendation made by the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue, at its eighth session,

1 ADOPTS the *Amendments to the Performance standards for shipborne voyage data recorders (VDRs)*, set out in the annex to the present resolution;

2 RECOMMENDS Governments to ensure that VDRs:

- .1 if installed on or after 1 July 2022, conform to performance standards not inferior to those specified in the annex to resolution MSC.333(90), as amended by the present resolution;
- .2 if installed on or after 1 July 2014 and before 1 July 2022, conform to performance standards not inferior to those specified in the annex to resolution MSC.333(90);

- .3 if installed on or after 1 June 2008, but before 1 July 2014, conform to performance standards not inferior to those specified in the annex to resolution A.861(20), as amended by resolution MSC.214(81); and
- .4 if installed before 1 June 2008, conform to performance standards not inferior to those specified in the annex to resolution A.861(20).

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**AMENDMENTS TO THE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR
SHIPBORNE VOYAGE DATA RECORDERS (VDRs)**

- 1 In paragraph 3.1:
 - .1 resolution A.810(19) is deleted from the list; and
 - .2 the following resolution is added to the list:
 - "- MSC.471(101) Performance standards for float-free emergency position-indicating radio beacons (EPIRBs) operating on 406 MHz"

- 2 Section 5.2.2 is replaced by the following:

"5.2.2 Float-free recording medium

The float-free recording medium should be installed in a float-free capsule which should meet all of the following requirements:

 - .1 be fitted with means to facilitate grappling and recovery;
 - .2 maintain the recorded data for a period of at least six months following termination of recording;
 - .3 be so constructed as to comply with the requirements specified in resolution MSC.471(101) and to minimize risk of damage during recovery operations;
 - .4 be capable of transmitting an initial satellite distress alerting signal and further locating and homing signals over a period of not less than seven days/168 hours; and
 - .5 be capable of being accessed following an incident but secure against a physical or electronically manipulated change or deletion of recorded data."
