



Ref. T4/4.01

MSC/Circ.1050
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**SHIPBOARD PLANS FOR FIRE PROTECTION APPLIANCES,
LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES AND MEANS OF ESCAPE**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee at its seventy-fifth session (15 to 24 May 2002) noted that SOLAS regulation II-2/15 (which will enter into force on 1 July 2002) requires that fire control plans be permanently exhibited for the guidance of the ship's officers and that a duplicate set of fire control plans or a booklet containing such plans be permanently stored in an enclosure outside the deckhouse for the assistance of shoreside fire-fighting personnel.

2 The Committee further noted that resolution A.654(16) on Graphical symbols for fire control plans, recognizing that the use of universally understood symbols should greatly increase the usefulness of fire control plans, both for the crew of the ship and for shorebased fire brigades, urged Member Governments to bring the symbols annexed to that resolution to the attention of ships' personnel and shorebased fire-fighting personnel with a view to encouraging their adoption for use on board all ships.

3 The Committee, having noted that ISO, in close co-operation with IMO, had developed its standard ISO 17631:2002 – Ships and marine technology – Shipboard plans for fire protection, life-saving appliances and means of escape, providing fire protection symbols which generally conform to the corresponding symbols set out in the Annex to resolution A.654(16), decided that the ISO standard 17631 should be brought to the attention of Member Governments.

4 It is the intention of the Committee to prepare a revision of resolution A.654(16), which either will make reference to, or incorporate the graphical symbols contained therein, the abovementioned ISO standard, without any changes, for adoption by the Assembly at its twenty-third session in 2003.

5 Member Governments are invited to bring standard ISO 17631:2002 to the attention of shipbuilders, ship owners, ship operators, ship masters, shorebased fire-fighting personnel and other parties concerned with the preparation or use of shipboard fire control plans, so that they may use it, on a voluntary basis, for the preparation or use of shipboard fire control plans in compliance with SOLAS regulation II-2/15, pending the adoption of the revised Assembly resolution.

6 Member Governments are also invited to note that existing ships may still use resolution A.654(16) in the fire control plan on board.

7 Member Governments are further invited to note that ISO is currently developing an ISO standard* for shipboard signage for life-saving appliances and arrangements and means of escape. Once the standard is published, it may be taken into consideration in the context of resolution A.760(18) on Symbols related to life-saving appliances and arrangements, as amended by resolution MSC.82(70), for possible revision thereof.

* Ships and marine technology – Shipboard signage for fire protection appliances, life-saving appliances and means of escape.