

FOREWORD

1. At its forty-eighth session held in June 1983, the Maritime Safety Committee adopted amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS). Thirty-three Contracting Governments to the Convention were present at the session and all the texts of the amendments were adopted in accordance with the procedure specified in Article VIII(b)(iv).
2. The amendments adopted at the session consist of complete replacement texts of Chapters III and VII and amendments to Chapters II-1, II-2 and IV.
3. The decimal numbering system has been used in Chapters II-1, II-2, III and VII. Metric and Imperial units have been replaced with those of the *Système International* (SI Units), except where conventionally accepted nautical units were considered more appropriate.
4. Cross references are given in a concise form, e.g. Regulation II-2/10.4 meaning paragraph 4 of Regulation 10 of Chapter II-2.
5. Footnotes given throughout the Convention, as well as amendments thereto, refer to the relevant recommendations annexed to the Convention and other internationally accepted standards. The Maritime Safety Committee has emphasized that these footnotes do not form part of the Convention and are only inserted for ease of reference. The footnotes are to be altered to reflect any changes which may be made to the resolutions, recommendations or documents on which they are based. References to draft resolutions to be considered by the Assembly at its thirteenth regular session are to be replaced by the definitive numbers of the resolutions as adopted by the Assembly.