1954 No. 105

The Merchant Shipping (Signals of Distress) Rules, 1954

Made - - - -	*27th January*, 1954
Laid before Parliament	*29th January*, 1954
Coming into Operation	*10th February*, 1954

The Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation, in exercise of his powers under sub-section (2) of Section 21 of the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Act, 1949(**a**), and of all other powers him enabling in that behalf hereby makes the following Rules:—

1.—(1) These Rules shall come into operation on the 10th day of February, 1954, and may be cited as the Merchant Shipping (Signals of Distress) Rules, 1954.

(2) In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires, the expression "Signal of distress" means any of the signals of distress referred to in Article 5 of the Collision Regulations (Ships and Seaplanes on the Water) and Signals of Distress (Ships) Order, 1953(**b**).

(3) The Interpretation Act, 1889(**c**) shall apply to the interpretation of these Rules as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

2. These Rules shall apply to:—

(*a*) British ships wherever they may be, not being ships registered in Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, India, Pakistan, Ceylon, The Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, the Republic of Ireland or a territory administered by the Government of any of the aforesaid countries;

(*b*) Other ships when within the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom.

3.—(1) No signal of distress shall be used by any ship to which these Rules apply unless the master of the ship so orders.

(2) The master of the ship shall not order any signal of distress to be used by his ship unless he is satisfied:—

(*a*) that his ship is in serious and imminent danger, or that another ship or an aircraft is in serious and imminent danger and cannot of itself send that signal; and

(*b*) that the ship in danger (whether his own ship or another ship) or the aircraft in danger, as the case may be, requires immediate assistance in addition to any assistance then available to her.

(3) The master of every ship to which these Rules apply, being a ship which has sent any signal of distress by means of radio, shall cause that signal to be revoked as soon as he is satisfied that the ship or aircraft to which the signal relates is no longer in need of assistance as aforesaid.

Given under the Official Seal of the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation this 27th day of January, 1954.

(L.S.) *Alan Lennox-Boyd*,
The Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation.

(a) 12, 13 & 14 Geo. 6. c. 43. (b) S.I. 1953/1557 (1953 I, p. 1157). (c) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Rules, but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These Rules prescribe the circumstances in which the signals of distress prescribed by the Collision Regulations (Ships and Seaplanes on the Water) and Signals of Distress (Ships) Order 1953 (S.I. 1953/1557) are to be used by ships and the circumstances in which such signals of distress, if sent by radio, are to be revoked. The Rules implement provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1948, relating to the misuse of signals of distress.

SHIPS AND SHIPOWNERS

1954 No. 679 (C. 6)

The Merchant Shipping Act, 1954 (Commencement) Order, 1954

Made - - - - *20th May,* 1954

The Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by Section 3 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1954(a), and of all other powers him enabling in that behalf hereby makes the following Order:—

1. The provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1954, shall come into operation on the first day of July, 1954.

2. The Interpretation Act, 1889(b), shall apply to the interpretation of this Order as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

3. This Order may be cited as the Merchant Shipping Act, 1954 (Commencement) Order, 1954.

Given under the Official Seal of the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation this 20th day of May, 1954.

(L.S.) *N. A. Guttery,*
A Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation.

MINES AND QUARRIES

1954 No. 84

The Metalliferous Mines (Amendment) General Regulations, 1954

Made - - - - *23rd January,* 1954
Laid before Parliament *26th January,* 1954
Coming into Operation *7th February,* 1954

The Minister of Fuel and Power, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by section eighty-six of the Coal Mines Act, 1911(c), as applied by

(a) 2 & 3 Eliz. 2. c. 18. (b) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63. (c) 1 & 2 Geo. 5. c. 50.