STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1965 No. 1550

MERCHANT SHIPPING

SAFETY

The Merchant Shipping (Signals of Distress) Rules 1965

Made - - - -	*3rd August* 1965
Laid before Parliament	*11th August* 1965
Coming into Operation	*1st September* 1965

The Board of Trade in exercise of their powers under section 21(2) of the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Act 1949(a), as having effect by virtue of the Transfer of Functions (Shipping and Construction of Ships) Order 1965(b), and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, hereby make the following Rules:—

1.—(1) No signal of distress shall be used by any ship 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 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.

2.—(1) In these Rules the expression "signal of distress" means any of the signals of distress prescribed by Article 4 of the Collision Regulations (Ships and Seaplanes on the Water) and Signals of Distress (Ships) Order 1965(c) for use by ships as signals of distress.

(2) The Interpretation Act 1889(d) shall apply to the interpretation of these Rules as if these Rules and the Rules hereby revoked were Acts of Parliament.

3.—(1) The Merchant Shipping (Signals of Distress) Rules 1954(e) are hereby revoked.

(2) These Rules may be cited as the Merchant Shipping (Signals of Distress) Rules 1965, and shall come into operation on the 1st September 1965.

Douglas Jay,
3rd August 1965. President of the Board of Trade.

(a) 12, 13 & 14 Geo. 6. c. 43.
(b) S.I. 1965/145 (1965 I, p. 438).
(c) S.I. 1965/1525 (1965 II, p. 4411).
(d) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.
(e) S.I. 1954/105 (1954 I, p. 1235).

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Rules.)

These Rules supersede the Merchant Shipping (Signals of Distress) Rules 1954.

They prescribe the circumstances in which the signals of distress prescribed in the Collision Regulations (Ships and Seaplanes on the Water) and Signals of Distress (Ships) Order 1965 (S.I. 1965/1525) are to be used.