



Recommendation ITU-R M.1170-1
(03/2012)

**Morse telegraphy procedures
in the maritime mobile service**

M Series
**Mobile, radiodetermination, amateur
and related satellite services**



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Foreword

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Note: This ITU-R Recommendation was approved in English under the procedure detailed in Resolution ITU-R 1.

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RECOMMENDATION ITU-R M.1170-1*

Morse telegraphy procedures in the maritime mobile service

(1995-2012)

Scope

This Recommendation provides the information on the general use of Morse telegraphy, methods of calling, rules on the start and end of working with Morse signals.

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

a) that since some administrations may still use Morse telegraphy for the maritime mobile service,

recommends

1 that Morse telegraphy in the maritime mobile service should be performed in accordance with Annex 1.

Annex 1**Section I. Introduction**

§ 1. The use of the Morse code signals is not obligatory any more. Nevertheless due to the fact that the radiotelegraphy is less susceptible to interference and it is the most efficient means in case of emergency or disaster, the usage of Morse code in some areas by some operators could be practical and sometimes the only available means of communications.

§ 2. The service abbreviations given in Recommendation ITU-R M.1172 are to be used.

* This Recommendation should be brought to the attention of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and the Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T).

Note by the Secretariat: The references made to the Radio Regulations (RR) in this Recommendation refer to the RR as revised by the World Radiocommunication Conference 1995. These elements of the RR will come into force on 1 June 1998. Where applicable, the equivalent references in the current RR are also provided in square brackets.

Section II. Preliminary operations

§ 3. (1) Before transmitting, a station shall take precautions to ensure that its emissions will not interfere with transmissions already in progress; if such interference is likely, the station shall await an appropriate break in the communications in progress.

(2) If, these precautions having been taken, the emissions of the station should, nevertheless, interfere with a transmission already in progress, the following rules shall be applied:

- a) the ship station whose emission causes interference to the communication of a mobile station with a coast station shall cease sending at the first request of the coast station;
- b) the ship station whose emission causes interference to communications already in progress between mobile stations shall cease sending at the first request of one of the other stations;
- c) the station which requests this cessation shall indicate the approximate waiting time imposed on the station whose emission it suspends.

Section III. Calls by Morse radiotelegraphy

A. General

§ 4. (1) As a general rule, it rests with the ship station to establish communication with the coast station. For this purpose, the ship station may call the coast station only when it comes within the service area of the latter, that is to say, that area within which, by using an appropriate frequency, the ship station can be heard by the coast station.

(2) However, a coast station having traffic for a ship station may call this station if it has reason to believe that the ship station is keeping watch and is within the service area of the coast station.

§ 5. (1) In addition, each coast station shall, so far as practicable, transmit its calls in the form of "traffic lists" consisting of the call signs in alphabetical order of all ship stations for which it has traffic on hand. These calls are made at specified times fixed by agreement between the administrations concerned and at intervals of at least two hours and not more than four hours during the working hours of the coast station.

(2) In the bands between 4000 kHz and 27500 kHz, however, traffic lists may be transmitted at intervals of not less than one hour.

(3) Continuous or frequently repeated emissions of its call sign or of the enquiry signal CQ by a coast station should be avoided (see RR No. 15.1 [No. 1799]).

(4) Coast stations shall transmit their traffic lists on their normal working frequencies in the appropriate bands. This transmission shall be preceded by a general call to all stations (CQ).

(5) The call to all stations announcing the traffic list may be sent on a calling frequency in the following form:

- CQ, not more than three times;
- the word DE;