

COMMISSION FOR MARITIME METEOROLOGY
ABRIDGED FINAL REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION
Hamburg, 16 October – 1 November 1956
WMO – No. 59.RP.23

GENERAL SUMMARY

The possibility of improving the network of observations from merchant ships between 35°S and 55°S and in relatively sparse oceanic areas during IGY

34. This item is included in view of the obvious necessity of doing everything possible to provide an adequate network. The relevant committee considered this question in detail, and recommendation 14 outlines a scheme upon which urgent action is needed. Amplification of this scheme is outlined in annex 3 of this report.

Rec. 14 (CMM-II) – SURFACE REPORT FROM SHIPS IN SHORT FORM FOR USE DURING THE
INTERNATIONAL GEOPHYSICAL YEAR

THE COMMISSION FOR MARITIME METEOROLOGY,
NOTING,

- (1) That there is a need for obtaining as many and as complete observations as possible during the International Geophysical Year from ships in area where observations are sparse;
- (2) That many ships, other than selected and supplementary ships, navigating in these waters are equipped with barometers and thermometers which, though uncertified, might nevertheless be of some value for meteorological observations;

CONSIDERING,

- (1) That the present code form for surface reports from ships in short form (FM 23.A) does not permit the reporting of pressure and temperature from such ships;
- (2) That it is desirable to introduce a procedure whereby pressure and temperature can be reported by these ships at least during the International Geophysical Year;

RECOMMENDS,

- (1) That as a temporary arrangement during the International Geophysical Year, ships reporting in code form FM 23.A, should be allowed to report pressure and temperature in a fifth and optional group, provided that the instruments used for these observations are checked by a port meteorological officer;
- (2) That the fifth group be given the form (PPXTT), where PP stands for the last two figures of the pressure in whole millibars, X indicates that the ship is not a selected or supplementary ship and TT is air temperature in degrees Celsius or Fahrenheit;
- (3) That the decision of the President of the World Meteorological Organization on the use of the group (PPXTT) as an optional group during the International Geophysical Year be promulgated as soon as possible to all Members concerned;
- (4) That the Commission for Synoptic Meteorology be requested to take steps to introduce group (PPXTT) as a drop-out group in code form FM 23.A on a permanent basis.