THE ASSEMBLY,

NOTING Article 16(i) of the IMCO Convention concerning the function of the Assembly,

NOTING ALSO Recommendation 11 of the International Conference on Safety of Life at Sea, 1960,

RECOGNIZING that the properties of materials approved for the structural, fire protection in ships might change with the course of time,

HAVING CONSIDERED the Recommendation adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee at its seventeenth session,

ADOPTS the Recommendation concerning Checking the Constancy of the Properties of Materials, the text of which is set out in the Annex to this Resolution,

INVITES all governments concerned to take steps to give effect to the Recommendation as soon as possible.
ANNEX

RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING CHECKING THE CONSTANCY OF THE PROPERTIES OF MATERIALS

1. Attention of Administrations should be drawn to the fact that the properties of the constituent materials approved for the structural fire protection in ships may change with the course of time, thus casting doubt on the validity of previous tests.

The properties may change in two different ways:

(1) During subsequent manufacture of the constituent materials (substantial changes in the method of manufacture of which the user has not been informed).

(2) During the life of the ship, as a result of ageing of the materials, seriously impairing the original properties.

2. Changes in manufacture may justify certain measures of periodical or occasional inspection by Administrations, so that they may satisfy themselves of the constancy of the properties of the materials; it is the task of Administrations to investigate whether these changes are such as to justify new laboratory tests on the materials.

3. The second type of change – deterioration during service – may involve laboratory investigation of the ageing of the constituent materials, provided that the ageing cycle adopted is representative of actual conditions on board ship.
4. This investigation should be based on a critical examination of pieces of material made available as a result of modification or demolition of existing ships. It would of course be necessary to know the initial level of the mechanical or chemical properties of the materials being studied. It would be useful to assemble documentary material on this subject and to investigate whether particular changes in properties lead to an increase or decrease in fire hazard properties including flame-spread characteristics.