



**THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (DISTRESS SIGNALS)  
ORDER 1932**

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 10th day of November, 1932

Present :

THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY IN COUNCIL

WHEREAS, in pursuance of the powers conferred upon him by section 434 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, His Majesty, by Order in Council dated the 13th day of October, 1910,\* prescribed certain signals of distress :

And whereas by subsection (4) of section 25 of the Merchant Shipping (Safety and Load Line Conventions) Act, 1932 (hereinafter called the Conventions Act), it is provided that section 434 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, should cease to have effect, but that any rules made thereunder should, until revoked, have effect as though they had been made under the provisions of section 25 of the Conventions Act :

And whereas by subsection (1) of section 25 of the Conventions Act, it is provided that His Majesty may by Order in Council prescribe what signals shall be signals of distress :

And whereas it is expedient to prescribe certain additional signals of distress :

Now, therefore, His Majesty, by and with the advice of His Privy Council, by virtue of the authority conferred on Him by the Conventions Act and all other powers enabling him in that behalf†, is pleased to order, and doth hereby order, as follows :—

1. The following signals of distress for use both in the daytime and at night shall be added to those contained in Article 31 of the First Schedule to the said Order in Council dated the 13th day of October, 1910\* :—

- (1) (a) A signal made by radiotelegraphy or by any other distance signalling method consisting of the group . . . — — . . . in the Morse Code :
- (b) A signal sent by radiotelegraphy consisting of the spoken word " Mayday " :
- (2) A signal sent by radiotelegraphy in the Morse Code consisting of a series of twelve dashes, each of four seconds duration, transmitted in one minute with an interval of one second between each dash.

\* *Gazette*, 6th April, 1911, Vol. I, page 1218.

† The Merchant Shipping (Safety and Load Line Conventions) Act, 1932 (Imperial), 22 & 23 Geo. 5, c. 9, is not in force as part of the law of New Zealand. This Order is regarded as being enacted for New Zealand under the authority of section 434 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 (Imperial), 57 & 58 Vic., c. 60, still in force as part of the law of New Zealand.

2. The Interpretation Act, 1889,\* 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 (Distress Signals) Order 1932, and shall come into operation on the 1st day of January, 1933.

M. P. A. HANKEY.

\* 52 & 53 Vic., c. 63.

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Issued under the authority of the Regulations Act, 1936.

Date of notification in *Gazette* : 6th day of December, 1945.

These regulations are administered in New Zealand by the Marine Department.