



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

ITU-T

TELECOMMUNICATION
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR
OF ITU

F.130

**OPERATIONS AND QUALITY OF SERVICE
MOBILE SERVICE**

MARITIME ANSWER - BACK CODES

ITU-T Recommendation F.130

(Extract from the *Blue Book*)

NOTES

1 ITU-T Recommendation F.130 was published in Fascicle II.4 of the *Blue Book*. This file is an extract from the *Blue Book*. While the presentation and layout of the text might be slightly different from the *Blue Book* version, the contents of the file are identical to the *Blue Book* version and copyright conditions remain unchanged (see below).

2 In this Recommendation, the expression “Administration” is used for conciseness to indicate both a telecommunication administration and a recognized operating agency.

Recommendation F.130

MARITIME ANSWER-BACK CODES

The CCITT,

considering

(a) that it is technically feasible to interconnect certain radiocommunication systems in the Maritime Mobile Service¹⁾ with the international telex network in order to provide a radiotelex service between ships and telex subscribers, in accordance with Recommendation F.110;

(b) that Recommendation F.60 specifies the operational provisions for the international telex service, and in particular, for the composition of answer-back codes;

(c) that, since no single Administration is responsible for the allocation of answer-back codes to ships in the way that such codes are administered in individual national telex networks, some rules further to those set down in Recommendation F.60 are desirable, for example to facilitate automatic operation in the ship-to-shore direction and to simplify the handling of inquiries concerning calls to or from ships;

(d) that, to the extent possible, the alphabetic portion of maritime answer-back codes should provide a means for detecting possible mutilation of the numerical portion, particularly in the case of ship-to-shore calls where it may be used for charging and accounting purposes,

unanimously declares

that, at least in cases where interconnection with the international telex network is desired, answer-back codes generated by teleprinters (or equivalent terminal devices) on ships shall comply with the following requirements.

1 Regardless of the transmission medium used (e.g. maritime-mobile satellite, HF "direct printing", VHF), the answer-back code, as printed out for a distant subscriber, shall include the following three components in the order indicated:

- a) the "ship station's number" of 6, 7, 8 or 9 digits (see § 2 below);
- b) the "ship's (abbreviated) name" of 4 letters (see § 3 below);
- c) the letter X, preceded by a space, as a "telex network identification code" reserved for mobile stations (see Recommendation F.68).

2 The 6, 7, 8 or 9 digits of the ship station's number are those allocated by the licensing Administration in accordance with Recommendation F.120 but with the final 3, 2 or 1 zeroes deleted for 6, 7 or 8-digit numbers respectively.

3 The letters comprising the ship's (abbreviated) name [§ 1b) above] should be chosen with the guidance and under the control of the licensing Administration with a view not only to identifying the ship (or the company, or the fleet, as is most appropriate) in a clear manner for a distant subscriber, but also to providing a means for checking the ship station's number as recorded in the answer-back code. The name should not include shifts, figures or signs. Where a ship has been allocated a 6, 7 or 8-digit number, in principle the ship's (abbreviated) name should not need to be changed when the numbering plan is modified to incorporate 7, 8 or 9-digit numbers.

4 The series of twenty combinations in International Telegraph Alphabet No. 2 comprising the answer-back code shall be allocated as follows:

¹⁾ As in Recommendation F.110 and F.111, the term Maritime Mobile Service is intended to include also the Maritime Mobile-Satellite Service.

- a) figure-shift, or (if permanently fitted) letter-shift;
- b) carriage-return;
- c) line-feed;
- d) the ship station's number, or (if a letter-shift is fitted in the first position) figure-shift followed by the ship station's number;
- e) letter-shift;
- f) space, which should however be omitted if both the ship station's number consists of 8 digits and a letter-shift is fitted in the first position;
- g) the ship's (abbreviated) name;
- h) space;
- i) if necessary, a letter-shift or letter-shifts to bring the total number of combinations in the answer-back code up to twenty;
- j) the letter X;
- k) letter-shift (it- permanently fitted).

5 The technical requirements for answer-back generators are laid down in Recommendation S.6.

6 In accordance with Recommendation S.6, it is preferred that teleprinters having all 20 positions in the answer-back which are freely assignable should be used in the future, i.e. where the first position is a figure-shift and the last the letter X. In the meantime, teleprinters that have a letter-shift permanently fitted in the first and last positions of the answer-back code may be used where the ship station's number does not exceed 8 digits.