

Shipping Regulations and Guidance

Week 43, 2025 – Friday 24th October
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IMO - MEPC-ES 2

The second Extraordinary Session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC-ES 2) took place from 14th to 17th October, chaired by Dr Harry Conway and attended by 135 delegations.

Key takeaways of this meeting include:

- A proposal to establish a new GHG Sub-Committee was agreed in principle by the MEPC-ES 2 member States, and a final decision will be taken at a future session after consideration by the Council and Secretariat.
- MEPC-ES 2 was tabled to consider several already approved amendments to MARPOL Annex VI with a view to adoption at this session.
- The proposed adoption of a new Chapter 5 to MARPOL Annex VI called 'Regulation on the IMO Net-Zero Framework' (NZF) was intensely debated and promoted divided opinions among member States.
- A roll call vote was motioned *"to adjourn this MEPC Extraordinary Session for one year"*. The member States voted to adjourn the meeting. Consequently, the proposed amendments to MARPOL Annex VI were not adopted at this meeting.

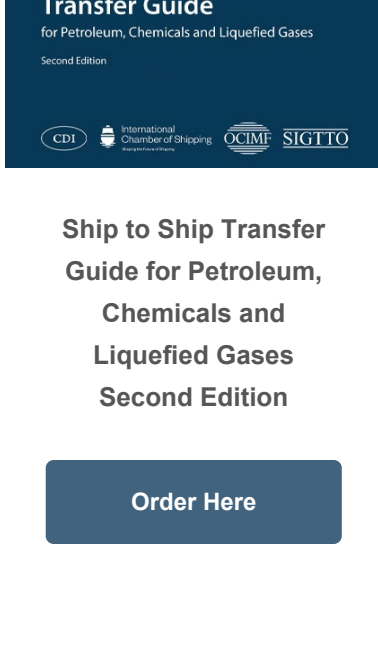
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Flag State Regulations and Guidance Update

- UK** – has released two updates:
 - ['MSN 1886 \(M+F\) Amendment 3 Medical examination system standards'](#)
 - ['MIN 727 \(M+F\): Marine office and customer service telephone number changes'](#).
- Panama** – has published an update entitled ['Merchant Marine Circular MMC-230 Ship Protection Measures to Pirates Attacks'](#).
- Bahamas** – has released two updates:
 - ['TA002 – United States Coast Guard QUAL SHIP 21 & E-Zero Program'](#)
 - ['MN031 – Maritime Labour Convention 2006'](#).
- Isle of Man** – has published an update entitled ['TAN 005-25 Updates to Basic Training for Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities \(PSSR\)'](#).
- Cyprus** – has released two updates:
 - ['Circular 25/2025 The Protection of Cyprus Ships Against Acts of Piracy and other Unlawful Acts Law \(Law 77\(I\) of 2012\) Temporary alteration of the northern limit in the Red Sea of the East Africa and Northwest Indian Ocean High-risk area- Order issued pursuant to sections 71\(1\)\(e\) and \(f\) and 71\(2\)\(a\) – Circular issued pursuant to section 71\(2\)\(b\)'](#)
 - ['SIN 7/2025 New European Union restrictive measures against Iran: re-imposition of previously lifted UN and EU sanctions'](#).

New from Witherbys

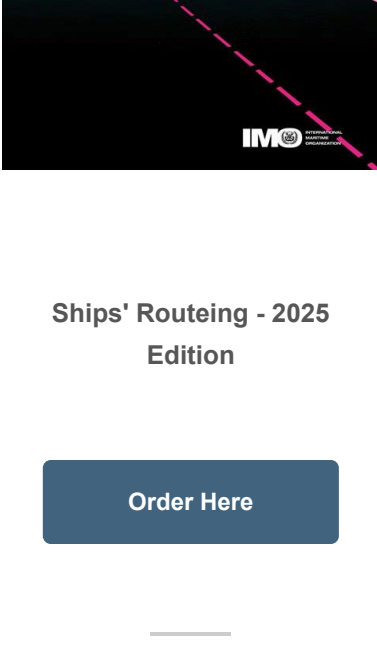
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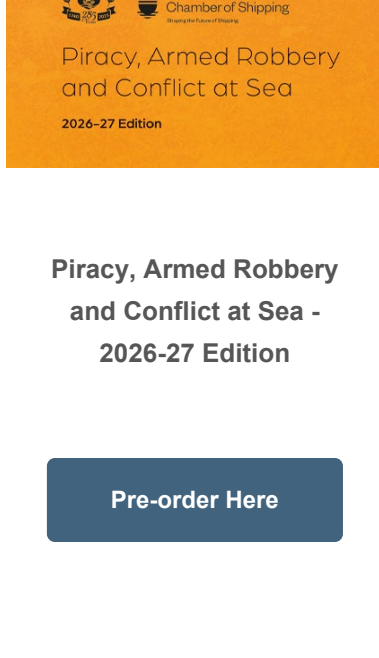
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and Conflict at Sea -
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Navigation and Security News

- ['JMJC Weekly Dashboard for the Middle East' \(UKMTO\)](#)
- ['Seafarer dies after falling from BWV Group bulker' \(TradeWinds\)](#)
- ['Cargo vessel runs aground in foggy Svinesund Bridge' \(Safety4Sea\)](#)
- ['Indonesian ambulance boat now missing for one week after sailing out to Makassar Strait' \(Baird Maritime\)](#)
- ['Explosion sets LPG carrier on fire off Yemen' \(Splash 24/7\)](#)
- ['Ghana and Vanuatu accede to Cape Town Agreement' \(Safety4Sea\)](#)

Recent Class Society Guidance

- MEPC ES.2:**
 - [American Bureau of Shipping](#)
 - [Bureau Veritas](#)
 - [DNV](#)
 - [Korean Register](#)
 - [Lloyd's Register](#)
- DNV** – has published an update entitled ['IMO CCC 11: Interim guidelines for hydrogen as fuel completed'](#).
- Korean Register** – has published an update entitled ['Advance notice on the revision of the Classification Technical Rules\(Hull&Survey\)'](#).
- Lloyd's Register** – has released five updates:
 - ['The blossoming of biofuels'](#)
 - ['Empowering seafarers for the energy transition'](#)
 - ['From fuel choice to fuel strategy'](#)
 - ['China routing for efficient ships'](#)
 - ['Tailoring ports to fit the future'](#).
- ClassNK** – has released two updates:
 - ['TEC-1364 LRIT conformance test for Liberia flagged ships'](#)
 - ['TEC-1365 Revision of SEEMP Part II in accordance with the 2024 SEEMP GUIDELINES and periodical updates to SEEMP Part III'](#).

Recent P&I Club Guidance

- New rights of recourse relating to the carriage of dangerous goods:**
 - [Gard](#)
 - [Skuld](#)
 - [Britannia P&I](#)
 - [Japan P&I Club](#)
 - [The London P&I Club](#)
 - [NorthStandard](#)
 - [Shipowners' Club](#)
 - [The Swedish Club](#)
 - [West](#)
 - [UK P&I Club](#)
- Gard** – has released three updates:
 - ['Are your fire-fighting foams PFOS-free?'](#)
 - ['The US and China port fees: a comparison'](#)
 - ['Communication and media handling during a crisis'](#).
- Skuld** – has released three updates:
 - ['USTR Notice of Action 301: China's targeting of maritime logistics and shipbuilding'](#)
 - ['China's new port service charges for US vessels'](#)
 - ['Update: Guidance on the implementation of the China Special Port Fees effective 14 October 2025'](#).
- Britannia** – has published an update entitled ['Precautions for Hot Work'](#).
- NorthStandard** – has released three updates:
 - ['Civil unrest impacts port operations in Madagascar'](#)
 - ['VPS Bunker Alerts 2025'](#)
 - ['Strike impacts Port of Rotterdam'](#).

Other Regulations and Guidance in the News

- ReCAAP** – has issued its [weekly piracy report](#).
- MEPC ES.2:**
 - [IMO](#)
 - [UK Chamber of Shipping](#)
 - [International Chamber of Shipping](#)
 - [BIMCO](#)
- BIMCO** – has published an update entitled ['BIMCO to develop standard clause addressing Chinese Special Port Fees'](#).

Recent Accident Reports

- UK** – The MAIB has released an [investigation report](#) into the death of a diver who was hit by the propeller of the dive boat *'Karin'* in the Orkney Islands, Scotland on 28th September 2023. Two dive workboats were operating in the area that day, supporting divers who were exploring the wreck of the German battleship SMS *'Markgraf'*. The diver had released a delayed surface marker buoy to make his position known to the workboats, but this did not prevent the *'Karin'* from making contact. The investigation found that the *'Karin'*'s skipper was not maintaining a sufficient lookout despite manoeuvring in an area with numerous submerged divers.
- Denmark** – The DMAIB has released an [investigation report](#) into the collision of the container ship *'Murcia Mærsk'* and the fishing vessel *'BD-30947-TS'* in the South China Sea on 19th July 2023, which led to the capsizing and sinking of the fishing vessel with the loss of two crewmembers. The investigation found that the *'Murcia Mærsk'* was operating at high speed in a dense traffic area and in low visibility, and that the bridge team had been heavily reliant on the radar to navigate in these conditions. The small fishing vessel was not picked up on the radar and by the time it was spotted visually, it was too late to effectively change course and avoid collision.
- Hong Kong** – The HKMAIB has released an [investigation report](#) into the death of one crewmember and injury of three others on board the container ship 'COSCO Prince Rupert' off the coast of South Africa on 30th September 2024. In rough conditions, the team of seafarers were trying to secure the flooded bosun store against further water ingress, when three huge waves struck the bow. The investigation found that multiple failures to follow the SMS on the part of the crew and the Master, as well as insufficient safety training and an improper course adjustment, all led to the accident.

Recent IMO Circulars

- HTW 12/6/26 – 23/10/2025** – Comprehensive Review of the 1978 STCW Convention and Code.
- MEPC/ES.2/INF.4 – 23/10/2025** – Consideration and Adoption of Amendments to Mandatory Instruments.
- A 34/14 – 22/10/2025** – Consideration of the Reports and Recommendations of the Marine Environment Protection Committee.
- Circular Letter No.5075 – 22/10/2025** – Seventy-sixth session of the Technical Cooperation Committee (8 to 12 June 2026).
- TC 76/1 – 22/10/2025** – Provisional Agenda.
- Circular Letter No.5082 – 22/10/2025** – Nomination of candidates: Master's Programmes at the IMO International Maritime Law Institute, Malta, October 2026 to July 2027.
- C 135/9 – 22/10/2025** – Report of the Extraordinary Session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee.
- Circular Letter No.5081 – 21/10/2025** – Nomination of candidates: Master's Programmes at the World Maritime University, Sweden, September 2026 to November 2027.
- MSC.1/Circ.1428/Rev.1 – 21/10/2025** – Required Pilot Transfer Arrangements for Pilots and Other Personnel.
- Circular Letter No.5080 – 21/10/2025** – Amendments to the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code.

List of Amendments Expected to Enter into Force This Year and in the Coming Years

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A Guide to What's Happening at the IMO

The IMO has released the programme of meetings for 2025 plus the preliminary programme for Q1 and Q2 2026. Please see the IMO's ['Meeting Summaries'](#) webpage for more information.

- 27-31 October – Consultative Meetings of Contracting Parties (London Convention 1972) and Meetings of Contracting Parties (London Protocol 1996)
- 19-21 November – IMO Council
- 24 November-03 December – IMO Assembly
- 04 December – IMO Council
- 19-23 January – Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Construction (SDC)
- 09-13 February – Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR)
- 23-26 February – Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW)
- 09-13 March – Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE)
- 23-27 March – Facilitation Committee (FAL)
- 13-17 April – Legal Committee (LEG)
- 27 April-01 May – Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC)
- 13-22 May – Maritime Safety Committee (MSC)
- 08-12 June – Technical Cooperation Committee (TC)
- 22-26 June – Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation, Communication and Search and Rescue (NCSR)