

Shipping Regulations and Guidance

Week 44, 2025 – Friday 31st October
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Introducing Witherbys' own expedition and research vessel – MV SEA RANGER, arriving 2026

Witherbys is delighted to introduce its new oceanographic research vessel, MV SEA RANGER, entering service in 2026. This state-of-the-art vessel represents the next step in supporting our ongoing research, development and technical operations.

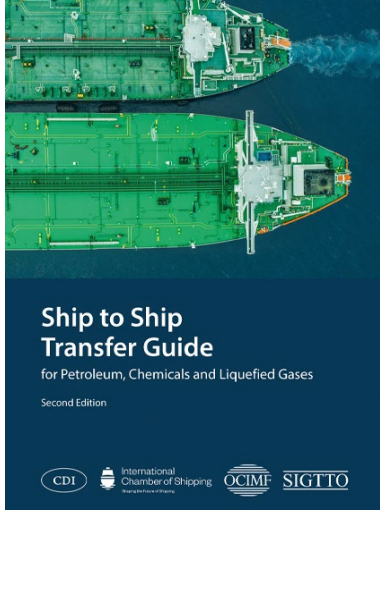
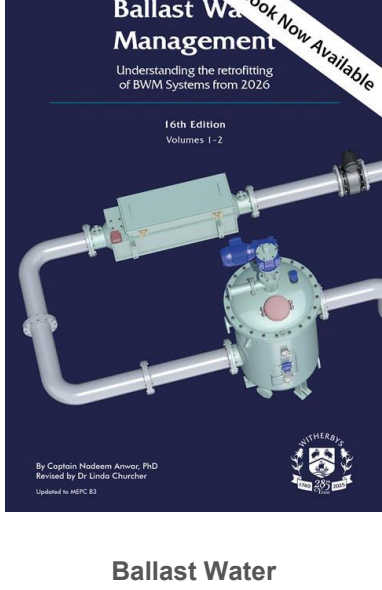
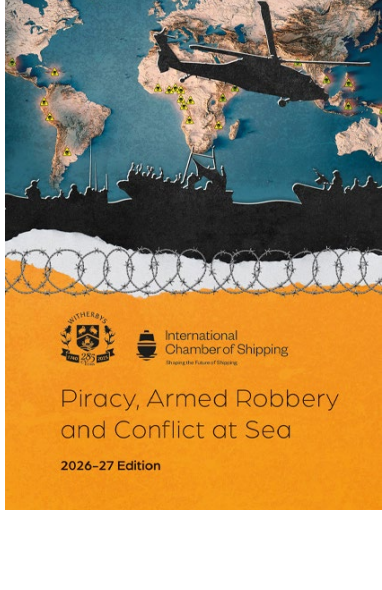
It will serve as a dedicated platform to advance our publications, enhance computer-based training on Witherby Connect and further develop our Passage Planning Guide series. SEA RANGER will also support research into ECDIS transitions, S-100 developments and maritime security, environmental and operational practices, ensuring our content reflects real-world conditions at sea.

[Read the full press release](#)
[Watch the vessel in action](#)

Flag State Regulations and Guidance Update

- UK** – has released four updates:
 - ['MIN 635 \(M\) Amendment 1 wellbeing at sea publications'](#)
 - ['MIN 641 \(M\) Amendment 1 Navigation: ports and marine facilities safety code compliance submission for 2026-2028'](#)
 - ['MIN 725 \(M\) Electronic reporting of persons on board passenger ships'](#)
 - ['MGN 586 \(F\) Amendment 2 ILO work in fishing convention, 2007 - medical care'](#).
- Liberia** – has released two updates:
 - ['Marine Advisory: 31/2025 - General Guidance on Consideration of Carriage of Certain Military Cargo'](#)
 - ['Marine Advisory: 32/2025 - Hazards Associated with Tug Line Handling During Berthing and Unberthing Operations'](#).
- Panama** – has published an update entitled ['MMN-10/2025 Vessels Arriving to Panamanian Waters: Mandatory Notifications, PSC/FSI Re-inspection Requests and Special Permit Procedures'](#).
- Bahamas** – has published an update entitled ['BMA Safety Alert 25-02 – Failure of Fall Arrest Equipment'](#).
- Cyprus** – has published an update entitled ['SIN 8/2025 New European Union restrictive measures in view of the gravity of the situation in Ukraine \(19th package of restrictive measures\)'](#).
- Malta** – has published an update entitled ['MS Notice 200 - 19th Russia sanctions package'](#).

New from Witherbys

Out October 2025	Out October 2025	Due December 2025
		
Ship to Ship Transfer Guide for Petroleum, Chemicals and Liquefied Gases Second Edition	Ballast Water Management Understanding the retrofitting of BWM Systems from 2026 - 16th Edition, Volumes 1-2	Piracy, Armed Robbery and Conflict at Sea - 2026-27 Edition
Order Here	Order Here	Pre-order Here

Navigation and Security News

- ['JMJC Weekly Dashboard for the Middle East' \(UKMTO\)](#)
- ['Hurricane Melissa rages in the Atlantic causing damages and chaos' \(Safety4Sea\)](#)
- ['Two Dead, 20 Injured as Russian Floating Crane Capsizes in Sevastopol' \(The Maritime Executive\)](#)
- ['Two missing following Wan Hai boxship collision with bulker' \(Lloyd's List\)](#)
- ['Shipping tests the Red Sea again' \(Splash 24/7\)](#)
- ['Fire takes out engine on Grimaldi car carrier in English Channel' \(TradeWinds\)](#)
- ['Queue times for commodity vessels off Chinese ports hit highs not seen since 2022' \(Splash 24/7\)](#)

Recent Class Society Guidance

- Bureau Veritas** – has released an update entitled ['Bureau Veritas calls for greater regulatory alignment to unlock nuclear powered shipping by 2045'](#).
- DNV** – has released two updates:
 - ['Deficiencies in CO2 fire-extinguishing systems'](#)
 - ['Maritime nuclear propulsion – Technologies, commercial viability, and regulatory challenges for nuclear-powered vessels'](#).
- Korean Register** – has released two updates:
 - ['Revision of "Guidelines for Floating Offshore Wind Turbine Structure"](#)
 - ['Guidance on EU Regulation Restricting the Use of PFAS-Containing Firefighting Foams'](#).
- Lloyd's Register** – has released two updates:
 - ['Settling the Score: Voyage Emissions Reporting Service – EU ETS & FuelEU'](#)
 - ['ISWG-GHG 20 Summary Report'](#).
- ClassNK** – has released two updates:
 - ['Release of the "NOTATION HANDBOOK \(2025-5 Edition\)'"](#)
 - ['On 30 October 2025, Technical Guidance were partly amended'](#).

Recent P&I Club Guidance

- The American Club** – has released two updates:
 - ['Good Catch Update: Don't Get Trapped by Poor Housekeeping Poster'](#)
 - ['Circular No. 22/25 - Rights of Recourse for the Carriage of Dangerous Goods in Contracts for Carriage'](#).
- NorthStandard** – has published an update entitled ['SOLAS: PFOs prohibited onboard vessels'](#).
- West** – has published an update entitled ['SOLAS - Amendments to the IMSBC Code \(Amendment 08/25\)'](#).
- UK P&I** – has published an update entitled ['Recent Developments in Venezuela-Related Sanctions'](#).

Other Regulations and Guidance in the News

- ReCAAP** – has issued its [weekly piracy report](#).
- International Chamber of Shipping** – has published an update entitled ['Tripartite reaffirms support for IMO as global regulator'](#).
- International Institute of Marine Surveying** – has published an update entitled ['IIT Maritime Consortium releases "first-of-its kind" guide for the design safety of nuclear ships'](#).

Recent Accident Reports

- US** – The NTSB has released an [investigation report](#) into the grounding of the towing vessel *'John M Donnelly'* on the Mississippi River near Baton Rouge, Louisiana on 30th October 2023. The towing vessel was pushing 25 empty cargo barges along the river and navigating around other vessels in the vicinity when it deviated from its recommended track and struck and grounded on an obstruction. There was no pollution reported, but a crew member sustained a minor injury. The investigation concluded that the pilot had not identified the hazard.

Recent IMO Circulars

- Circular Letter No.5077 – 30/10/2025** – 111th session of the Maritime Safety Committee (13 to 22 May 2026).
- MSC 111/1 – 30/10/2025** – Provisional Agenda.
- SSE 12/19 – 29/10/2025** – Election of Chair and Vice-chair for 2027.
- NC SR 13/1/1 – 29/10/2025** – Adoption of the Agenda.
- SDC 12/5/1 – 29/10/2025** – Revision of SOLAS Chapter II-1 (Part C) and V, and Related Instruments Regarding Steering and Propulsion Requirements, to Address Both Traditional and Non-traditional Propulsion and Steering Systems.
- C 135/4(b) – 28/10/2025** – Resource Management.
- Circular Letter No.5085 – 28/10/2025** – Amendments to MARPOL Annex VI.
- A 34/21/(c) – 28/10/2025** – External Relations.
- Circular Letter No.5084 – 27/10/2025** – IMO Awards Ceremony.
- HTW 12/6/9 – 24/10/2025** – Comprehensive Review of the 1978 STCW Convention and 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)



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