

# Shipping Regulations and Guidance

Week 49, 2025 – Friday 5th December

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## Flag State Regulations and Guidance Update

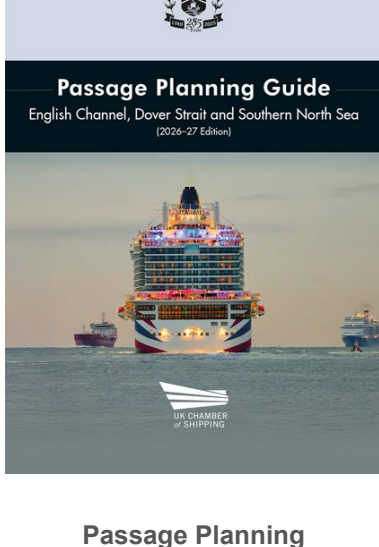
- Liberia** – has released four updates:
  - [‘TEC-009 - Mobile Offshore Units Standards Including Mobile Offshore Drilling Units’](#)
  - [‘Marine Advisory: 37/2025 - Amendments to IAMSAR Manual’](#)
  - [‘Marine Advisory: 38/2025 - Recognition of Option B equivalency of the Republic of Liberia Mobile Offshore Unit Standards, Chapters I and II \(RLM 293\) by The United States Coast Guard \(USCG\)’](#)
  - [‘Marine Advisory: 39/2025 - Concentrated Inspection Campaign \(CIC\) on Machinery and Electrical Failures’](#)
- Singapore** – has released an update entitled [‘MSC No. 11 of 2025 - Merchant Shipping \(Safety Convention\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2025 and Prevention of Pollution of the Sea \(Reporting of Pollution Incidents\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2025’](#).
- UK** – has released four updates:
  - [‘MGN 657 \(M+F\) Amendment 1 requirements for fixed aerosol fire extinguishing systems for use in small vessel machinery spaces’](#)
  - [‘MGN 670 \(M\) Amendment 1 Ships built on or after 1st January 2009 and engaged on international voyages – guidance on SOLAS chapter II-1’](#)
  - [‘MIN 729 \(M\)+\(F\): 2026 IMO Amendment to PSSR’](#)
  - [‘MSN 1866 \(M\) Amendment 2 - Training and certification requirements for seafarers on tankers, ships subject to the IGF Code, ships that operate in polar waters and passenger ships’](#).
- US** – has released two updates:
  - [‘MSIB 08-25 Monitoring Weather Conditions and Forecasts’](#)
  - [‘MSIB 07-25 Means of Escape Onboard Offshore Supply Vessels’](#).

## New from Witherbys

Out December 2025

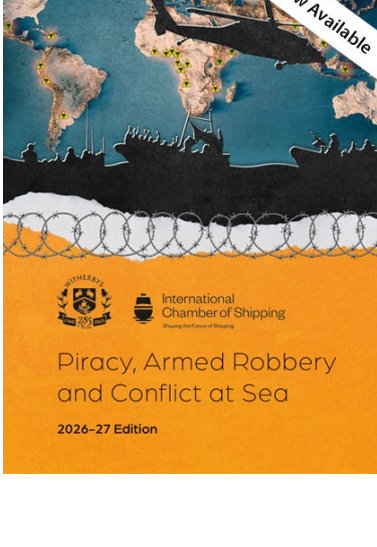
Due December 2026

Due January 2026



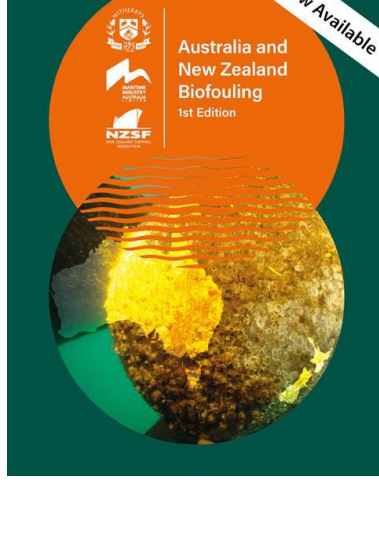
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and Conflict at Sea -  
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Zealand Biofouling - 1st  
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## Navigation and Security News

- [‘JMIC Weekly Dashboard for the Middle East’ \(UKMTO\)](#)
- [‘Waste collection boat to serve ships transiting the Suez Canal’ \(Baird Maritime\)](#)
- [‘Australians Find Cocaine with Tracking Devices Hidden in Arriving Container’ \(The Maritime Executive\)](#)
- [‘Black Sea war risk premiums surge’ \(Splash 24/7\)](#)
- [‘Nine Crew Members Kidnapped from LPG Tanker in Gulf of Guinea Pirate Attack’ \(gCaptain\)](#)

## Recent Class Society Guidance

- American Bureau of Shipping** – has released three updates:
  - [‘Retrofits for Energy and Emissions Improvement’](#)
  - [‘Requirements for Building and Classing Offshore Spaceports’](#)
  - [‘Revised recommendations for entering enclosed spaces aboard ships’](#).
- Bureau Veritas** – has released three updates:
  - [‘NR483 - Rules for the Classification of naval ships’](#)
  - [‘NR645 - Rules for the classification of floating storage regasification units and floating storage units’](#)
  - [‘NR561 - Hull in aluminium alloys’](#).
- DNV** – has released three updates:
  - [‘Net-Zero Guide - Practical approaches for global shipping companies’](#)
  - [‘Methanol fuel in shipping - Barriers and pathways to low-GHG methanol as a marine fuel’](#)
  - [‘FuelEU Maritime – flexibility mechanisms and pool verification’](#).
- Indian Register** – has released an update entitled [‘Technical Circular No.032/2025: Most Common MARPOL Annex VI Deficiencies during PSC Inspections’](#).
- Korean Register** – has released an update entitled [‘Amendments to Pilot Transfer Arrangement Requirements Entering into Force on 1 January 2028’](#).
- Lloyd’s Register** – has released an update entitled [‘26/25: Engine test requirements for amended NOx Technical Code’](#).
- ClassNK** – has released an update entitled [‘TEC-1369 “LRIT conformance test for Panamanian flagged ship”](#)’.

## Recent P&I Club Guidance

- Gard** – has published an update entitled [‘Customs fines in Argentina’](#).
- Japan P&I Club** – has released two updates:
  - [‘BIMCO Chinese Special Port Fee Clause for Time Charter Parties 2025’](#)
  - [‘Continuation of navigation safety measures during the peak season of drift-net fishing in the Seto Inland Sea’](#).
- NorthStandard** – has released two updates:
  - [‘Public health measures at Dominican ports’](#)
  - [‘Self-Heating Coal – Paradip India’](#).

- UK P&I** – has published an update entitled [‘Expanding Gas Trades: Perspective on LPG, Ethane and Ammonia Carriage’](#).

## Other Regulations and Guidance in the News

- ReCAAP** – has issued its [weekly piracy report](#).
- International Maritime Organization** – has published an update entitled [‘2026-2027 IMO Council elected’](#).

## Recent Accident Reports

- Ireland** – The MCIB has released an [investigation report](#) into the sinking of the passenger ship *‘Sea Breeze III’* near Little Skellig, Ireland on 7th July 2024. After being alerted to water ingress in the engine compartment, the skipper decided to return to port, 9.5 NM away. The ship sank halfway through the journey. The skipper was rescued beforehand. The investigation assessed several possible sources of water ingress, and concluded that the failure of a skin fitting or damage to the hull due to an impact with the landing dock were the most plausible causes, although it is not possible to inspect the ship to confirm either hypotheses.
- Marshall Islands** – The MIMA has released an [investigation report](#) into a fatality onboard the bulk carrier *‘Prisma’* in the Baltic Sea on 29th January 2025. During painting work in the cargo hold, the bosun instructed for the scaffolding on which he was standing to be moved, while he remained on top. The scaffolding fell, along with the bosun who sustained fatal injuries. The investigation identified several operational failures, such as ineffective implementation of permit to work and stop-work procedures, and unsafe work procedures such as remaining on the scaffolding while it was being moved and securing one’s lifeline to said scaffolding rather than a strong point on the ship as direct contributors to the casualty.
- Marshall Islands** – The MIMA has released an [investigation report](#) into a fatal enclosed space entry onboard the oil/chemical tanker *‘TRF Kashima’* in the South China Sea on 14th July 2024. A first crew member entered a cargo tank with no preliminary precautions and was found unconscious inside by two crew members who proceeded to follow him, and were subsequently found in the same condition. All were recovered, but one died. The investigation identified multiple contributing factors, lack of oversight and repeated failure to follow safety procedures being the most serious ones.
- Singapore** – The TSIBS has released an [investigation report](#) into the sinking of the oil tanker *‘Silver Sincere’* in Singapore territorial waters on 12th January 2025. The ship had been sailing with a low freeboard, and the ballast pump was found to be inoperative when moderate swells caused water ingress into a port side ballast tank. With no means to discharge the extra water, the *‘Silver Sincere’* carried on listing and eventually sank. All crew members were safely rescued. The investigation found several unaddressed defects which contributed to the water ingress and meant that the ship had not been fit for the voyage.

## Recent IMO Circulars

- STCW.2/Circ.138 – 04/12/2025** – International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978.
- SDC 12/INF.13 – 04/12/2025** – Experience-building Phase for the Reduction of Underwater Radiated Noise from Shipping.
- Circular Letter No.5094 – 04/12/2025** – Call for application to the voluntary VMDTF to facilitate the participation of developing countries, especially SIDS and LDCs, to attend meetings of the ISWG-GHG 21 and MEPC 84.
- HTW 12/6/51 – 04/12/2025** – Comprehensive review of the 1978 STCW Convention and Code.
- MEPC 84/7/6 – 04/12/2025** – Reduction of GHG emissions from ships.
- A 34/6(a)/Add.1 – 03/12/2025** – Consideration of the reports of the committees of the assembly.
- C 136/2/1/Add.1 – 03/12/2025** – Election of the Chair and of the Vice-chair.
- CCC.1/Circ.7 – 02/12/2025** – Requirements for reporting the loss of containers to the Organization pursuant to SOLAS regulations V/31 and V/32.

## 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 preliminary programme for 2026. Please see the IMO’s [‘Meeting Summaries’](#) webpage for more information.

- 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)
- 17 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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