

Shipping Regulations and Guidance

Week 51, 2025 – Friday 19th December

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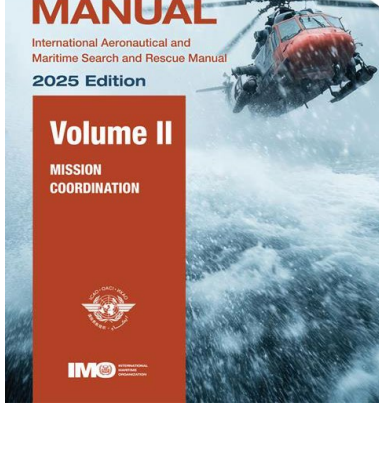
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Flag State Regulations and Guidance Update

- Australia** – has released an update entitled '[Marine Notice 2025/06 - Testing and inspection of oil filtering equipment \(MEPC.107\(49\)\)](#)'.
- Bahamas** – has released an update entitled '[Safety Alert 25-03 Methanol poisoning](#)'.
- Cyprus** – has released an update entitled '[Circular 27/2025 Guidance on the implementation of SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-13 on Lifting appliances and Anchor Handling Winches](#)'.
- Liberia** – has released an update entitled '[Technical Letter 2025-4: Reporting, Authorization, Issuance and Duration of Conditions \(Statutory and Class\)](#)'.
- Malta** – has released an update entitled '[Merchant Shipping Notice 201 - Amendments to the STCW Code Table A-VI/1-4 - Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities \(PSSR\) Training](#)'.
- Hong Kong** – has released Merchant Shipping Information Notes 63/2025 to 81/2025:
 - ['MSIN 81/2025 Updated Lists of Solid Bulk Cargoes for Which A Fixed Gas Fire-extinguishing System May Be Exempted or for Which A Fixed Gas Fire-extinguishing System Is Ineffective'](#)
 - ['MSIN 80/2025 Carriage of Dangerous Goods – Revised Standard Format of the Document of Compliance'](#)
 - ['MSIN 79/2025 Revised Recommendations on the Safe Use of Pesticides in Ships Applicable to the Fumigation of Cargo Holds, and revised Recommendations on the Safe Use of Pesticides in Ships'](#)
 - ['MSIN 78/2025 Revised Guidance on Pressure Testing of Boundaries of Cargo Oil Tanks under Direction of the Master'](#)
 - ['MSIN 77/2025 Revised Industry Counter Piracy Guidance'](#)
 - See the rest [here](#).
- Panama** – has released an update entitled '[List of Approved P&I Clubs/Insurers](#)'.
- UK** – has released ten updates:
 - ['MGN 578 \(M\) Amendment 3 Use of overside working systems on vessels'](#)
 - ['MIN 674 \(M\) Amendment 4 guidance for shipowners regarding seafarers affected by Russia's invasion of Ukraine'](#)
 - ['MGN 713 \(M\) Fire protection regulations – adoptions of amendments in IMO resolutions in force on 1 Jan 2026'](#)
 - ['MSN 1908 \(M+F\) Amendment 2 - The merchant shipping \(control and management of ships' ballast water and sediments\) regulation 2022'](#)
 - ['MIN 723 \(M+F\) Ballast water management: the intra north sea ballast water contingency area'](#)
 - and 5 other MGNs available [here](#).

New from Witherbys

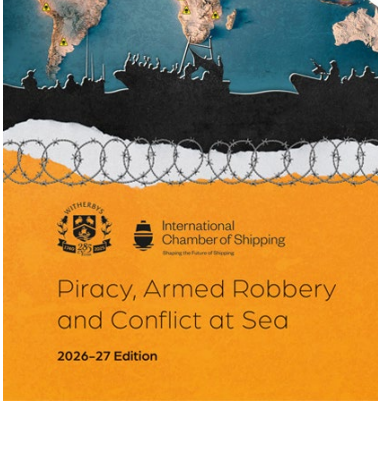
Due January 2026



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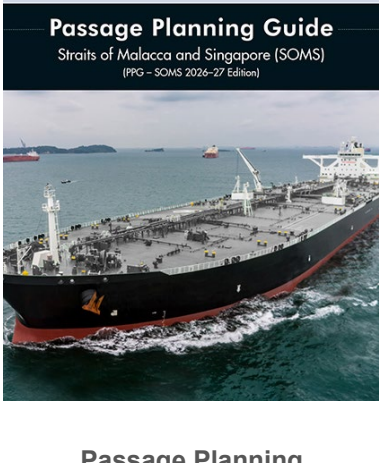
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Guide Straits of
Malacca and Singapore
(SOMS) - (PPG - SOMS
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Navigation and Security News

- ['JMIC Weekly Dashboard for the Middle East' \(UKMTO\)](#)
- ['Storm causes mayhem in Gibraltar and damages onboard RoRo' \(Safety4Sea\)](#)
- ['Greek fishing vessel caught trafficking cocaine from Venezuela, five arrested' \(Baird Maritime\)](#)
- ['Russia Deploys All Eight Nuclear Icebreakers for First Time to Keep Arctic Export Routes Open' \(gCaptain\)](#)
- ['Hong Kong Customs Use ROV to Find Cocaine Hidden in Sea Chest' \(The Maritime Executive\)](#)

Recent Class Society Guidance

- Bureau Veritas** – has released six updates:
 - ['NR529 - Gas-fuelled ships'](#)
 - ['NR526 - Lifting appliances onboard ships and offshore units'](#)
 - ['NR670 - Methanol and ethanol-fuelled Ships'](#)
 - ['NR533 - Approval of service suppliers'](#)
 - ['NR527 - Ships operating in polar waters and icebreakers'](#)
 - ['NR467 - Rules for the classification of steel ships'](#).
- Korean Register** – has released an update entitled '[Notice for Establishment to the KR Technical Rules\(Guidance for Approval of Additive Manufacturing\(3D Printing\)\)](#)'.
- ClassNK** – has released an update entitled '[TEC-1371 Expansion of the UK-ETS to the shipping Sector](#)'.

Recent P&I Club Guidance

- Britannia** – has released five updates:
 - ['The Taikoo Brilliance'](#)
 - ['The Grand Amanda'](#)
 - ['New Reporting Requirement – Loss or Observation of Freight Containers'](#)
 - ['Advice on Customs Fines'](#)
 - ['The Human Firewall: Securing the Crew, Safeguarding the Ship'](#).
- Gard** – has published an update entitled '[Beware of backflush filter failures – a cause of engine damage](#)'.
- Japan P&I Club** – has published an update entitled '[Turkey – Enhanced Marine Pollution Regulations and Substantial Fines for 2026](#)'.
- NorthStandard** – has released five updates:
 - ['No Scrubs: Countries and Ports where Restrictions on EGCS Discharges apply'](#)
 - ['China: Correspondents' advice on maritime-related risks'](#)
 - ['Pollution fines and Traffic regulations in Turkiye for 2026'](#)
 - ['Haiti – An Emerging Drug Trafficking Hub'](#)
 - ['Russia - Ukraine War: Impact on shipping'](#).
- Skuld** – has released two updates:
 - ['Somali piracy surge: Update & guidance'](#)
 - ['Navigating a complex regulatory landscape'](#).
- The American Club** – has released two updates:
 - ['USCG TAC PLUS - Health Spotlight Series'](#)
 - ['Environmental Pollution Fines in Turkey: an Update'](#).
- UK P&I Club** – has released five updates:
 - ['PEMFs/REMFs: What Are They and How Can They Assist Shipowners?'](#)
 - ['No Pain, No Gain? Explaining Pain and Suffering'](#)
 - ['Strategies to Control US Medical Costs: Medical Case Management and Bill Auditing'](#)
 - ['Evaluating Traumatic Brain Injuries'](#)
 - ['Arbitration Agreements in Seamen's Employment Contracts'](#).

Other Regulations and Guidance in the News

- ReCAAP** – has issued its [weekly piracy report](#).
- European Maritime Safety Agency** – has published an update entitled '[2025 European Maritime Safety Report](#)'.
- International Institute of Marine Surveying** – has published an update entitled '[DNV and WMMF collaborate on net-zero guide for shipping companies](#)'.

Recent Accident Reports

- Marshall Islands** – The MIMA has released an [investigation report](#) into the casualty on board the gas carrier '*Yenisei River*' at the port of Pyeongtaek, Republic of Korea on 2nd May 2024. During mooring operations, a malfunctioning winch meant that the ship had to move forward to release tension in the aft spring lines. A crewmember who was working on the fore spring lines and did not realise that the ship was about to move was pulled through the fairlead, and subsequently died from his injuries. The investigation concluded that ineffective communication between the bridge and the mooring teams likely led to the accident.

Recent IMO Circulars

- HTW 12/6/125 – 18/12/2025** – Comprehensive review of the 1978 STCW Convention and Code.
- SDC 12/8 – 18/12/2025** – Experience-building Phase for the Reduction of Underwater Radiated Noise from Shipping.
- HTW 12/INF.4 – 17/12/2025** – Any Other Business.
- HTW 12/8 – 17/12/2025** – Scoping Exercise and Enhancement of the Effectiveness of Provisions on Fatigue and Seafarers' Hours of Work and Rest.
- NV.078 – 17/12/2025** – Invitation to the 137th Session of the IMO Council.
- C 137/1 – 17/12/2025** – Provisional Agenda for the 137th Session of the Council to be held from Monday, 6 July to Friday, 10 July 2026.
- SDC 12/1/2 – 17/12/2025** – Adoption of the Agenda.
- PPR 13/10/1 – 17/12/2025** – Revision of MARPOL Annex IV and Associated Guidelines.
- PPR 13/8/6 – 17/12/2025** – Review and Development of NOx Emission Requirements in MARPOL Annex VI and the NOx Technical Code 2008.
- SDC 12/6/2 – 17/12/2025** – Development of Engine Control Room Alert Management (ECRAM) Performance Standards.

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)
- 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)

