

Shipping Regulations and Guidance

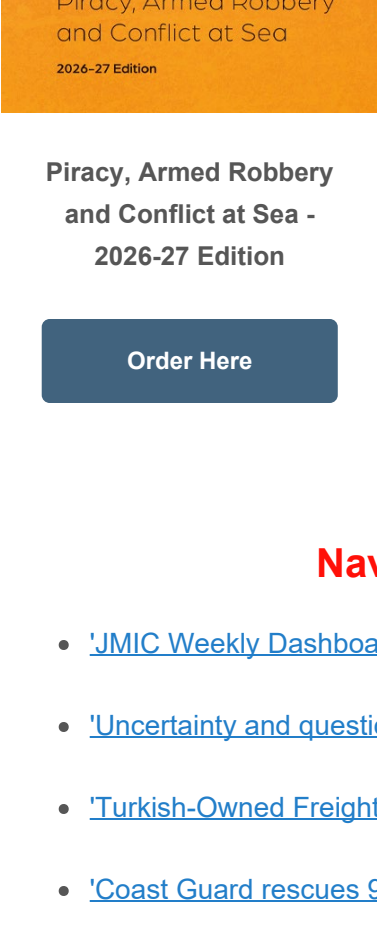

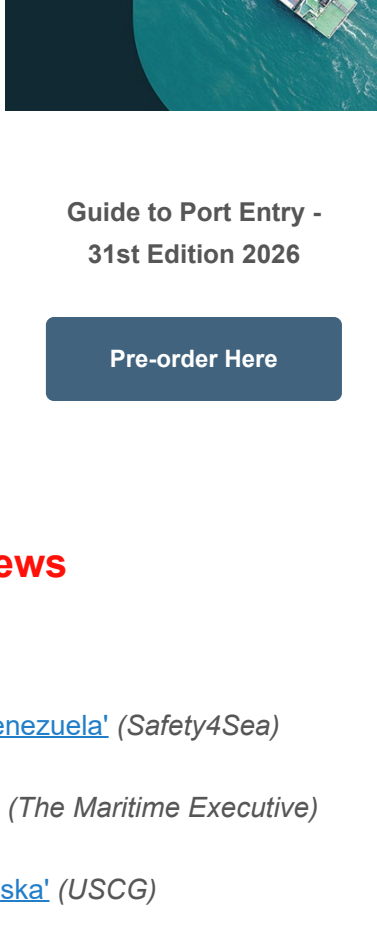
Week 2, 2026 – Friday 9th January
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Flag State Regulations and Guidance Update

- Bermuda** – has released an update entitled '[Guidance Notice 2025-02 Guidance on ship-shore emergency and ship-shore security drills](#)'.
- Canada** – has released an update entitled '[SSB No.: 20/2025 - Risk assessments and mitigation measures for a navigation bridge visibility blocked by cargo](#)'.
- Liberia** – has released three updates:
 - [SAF-020 - New SOLAS regulation II-1/3-13 on Lifting appliances and Anchor Handling Winches](#)
 - [Marine Advisory: 44/2025 - Revised Guidelines for Construction, Installation, Maintenance and Inspection/Survey of Means of Embarkation and Disembarkation](#)
 - [Marine Operations Note: 07/2025 - Use of Record and Log Books on board Ships](#).
- Marshall Islands** – has released six updates:
 - [Marine Notice No. 2-011-62 Lifting Appliances and Anchor Handling Winches](#)
 - [Marine Notice No. 2-011-63 Requirements for the Reporting of the Loss of Freight Containers or the Observation of Freight Containers Drifting at Sea](#)
 - [Marine Notice No. 1-006-1 Data Privacy Consent: Seafarers and Filing Agents](#)
 - [Marine Notice No. 2-013-12 MARPOL Annex VI, Chapter 4 – Regulations on the Carbon Intensity of International Shipping](#)
 - [Marine Notice No. 2-011-52 International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters \(Polar Code\)](#)
 - [Marine Notice No. 2-011-37 Life-saving Appliances and Systems](#).
- Norway** – has released three updates:
 - [Construction, equipment and supervision of small cargo ships](#)
 - [Regulation concerning amendments to the Regulations on the carriage of cargoes on Norwegian ships and barges](#)
 - [Regulation amending the Regulations on ships using fuel with a flashpoint of less than 60°C and the Dangerous Goods Regulations, Implementation of resolutions MSC.523\(106\), MSC.524\(106\), MSC.551\(108\) and MSC.556\(108\)](#).
- Hong Kong** – has released an update entitled '[MSIN 82/2025 Coming into Force of Hong Kong Legislation Implementing Amendments to Requirements of MARPOL Protocol I](#)'.
- Panama** – has released an update entitled '[Transitional provisions regarding the new 2024 Amendments to the STCW Code on prevention and response to violence and harassment, including bullying, sexual harassment and sexual assault](#)'.
- Singapore** – has released an update entitled '[Shipping Circular No. 12 of 2025 - Reporting of Containers Lost at Sea Pursuant to SOLAS Regulations V/31 and V/32, as Amended](#)'.
- UK** – has released nine updates:
 - [MGN 331 \(M+F\) Amendment 4: The PUWER Regulations 2006](#)
 - [MGN 332 \(M+F\) Amendment 4: The LOLER regulations 2006](#)
 - [MGN 659 \(M+F\) Amendment 3 \(Entry into Enclosed Spaces\)](#)
 - [MGN 710 \(M\) safety management systems for small workboats and pilot boats](#)
 - [MGN 714 \(M+F\) - adoption of amendments to the life saving appliances \(LSA\) Code](#)
 - [PMSC Compliance Exercise](#)
 - [MIN 730 \(M\) Carriage of cargoes: amendments to mandatory international instruments 2026](#)
 - [MIN 731 \(M\) High Speed Craft Codes 1994 & 2000 - ban of PFOS in firefighting media](#)
 - [MSN 1849 \(M\) Amendment 1 MLC, 2006 on-board complaint procedures](#)
 - and five other MGNs available [here](#).
- US** – has released three updates:
 - [Safety Alert 21-25 Recall of Orion Skyblazer II Red XLT Aerial Signal](#)
 - [Safety Alert 01-26 Incorrect Alloy for Valve Mounting Studs Presents Failure Hazard](#)
 - [Safety Alert 02-26 Prevent Opportunities for Backflow](#).

New from Witherbys

Out January 2026	Due January 2026	Due February 2026
		
Piracy, Armed Robbery and Conflict at Sea - 2026-27 Edition	Australia and New Zealand Biofouling - 1st Edition 2025	Guide to Port Entry - 31st Edition 2026
Order Here	Pre-order Here	Pre-order Here

Navigation and Security News

- [JMJC Weekly Dashboard for the Middle East](#) (*UKMTO*)
- [Uncertainty and questions rising following US actions in Venezuela](#) (*Safety4Sea*)
- [Turkish-Owned Freighter Runs Aground Near Kerch Strait](#) (*The Maritime Executive*)
- [Coast Guard rescues 9 people near St. George Island, Alaska](#) (*USCG*)

Recent Class Society Guidance

- China Classification Society** – has released three updates:
 - [Rules for Classification of Mobile Offshore Units](#)
 - [Rules for Classification of Sea-Going Steel Ships](#)
 - [Guidelines for Development and Survey of the Inventory of Hazardous Materials of Ships 2025 RCN No.1](#).
- Indian Register** – has released five updates:
 - [Technical Circular No: 040/2025 Incident & Casualties reported due to Fire in Engine Room](#)
 - [Technical Circular No: 039/2025 Incidents & Casualties associated with the loss of a free fall lifeboat due to accidental release](#)
 - [Technical Circular No: 038/2025 Lessons Learned from Oil Spill Environmental Pollution Incident](#)
 - [Technical Circular No: 037/2025 Lessons learnt from Collision Incident](#)
 - [Technical Circular No: 036/2025 Lessons learnt from Auxiliary Engine Damage Incident / Casualty](#)
 - and two more available [here](#).
- Lloyd's Register** – has released three updates:
 - [Horizons December 2025 - Cruise ship LNG dry-docks, ammonia engine approval and upskilling seafarers](#)
 - [Fuel for thought: Hydrogen](#)
 - [28/2025: List updated for Administering Authorities under EU ETS](#).
- Britannia** – has released three updates:
 - [Illegal Use of Starlink in PRC](#)
 - [Amendment to International Code for the Safe Carriage of Grain in Bulk \(Grain Code\)](#)
 - [Importance of Ship Maintenance: Enhancing Safety, Efficiency and Compliance](#).
- Gard** – has released three updates:
 - [Container fires continue with increasingly severe consequences](#)
 - [Mandatory reporting of containers lost at sea starts 1 January 2026](#)
 - [Maritime cocaine smuggling – a European perspective](#).
- Japan P&I Club** – has released three updates:
 - [USA-California: 2026 Marine Invasive Species Program Updates](#)
 - [Philippines-Reportorial Requirements under the Magna Carta of Seafarers in Critical/Medical Incidents](#)
 - [Australia-Testing and inspection of oil filtering equipment](#).
- NorthStandard** – has released three updates:
 - [No Scrubs: Countries and Ports where Restrictions on EGCS Discharges apply](#)
 - [Pollution fines and Traffic regulations in Turkiye for 2026](#)
 - [US Air Strikes on Venezuela – Impact on Shipping](#).
- Skuld** – has released two updates:
 - [INSIGHT: Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks \(Wreck Removal Convention\) 2007](#)
 - [INSIGHT: Bunker Convention 2001](#).
- West** – has released three updates:
 - [Venezuela - Latest update](#)
 - [Group A IMSBC Cargoes - The Rain Loading Dilemma](#)
 - [Turkey - Environmental Pollution Fines: Updated for 2026](#).
- IOPP Funds Amended Guidance for Member States on the definition of ‘ship’**:
 - [Japan P&I Club](#)
 - [Shipowners' Club](#)
 - [Skuld](#)
 - [Steamship Mutual](#)
 - [The Swedish Club](#)
 - [West](#).

Other Regulations and Guidance in the News

- ReCAAP** – has issued its [weekly piracy report](#).
- International Chamber of Shipping** – has published an update entitled '[The ICS Barometer 2025/2026 Survey](#)'.
- International Institute of Marine Surveying** – has published an update entitled '[Key tips for transferring plastic pellets in containers](#)'.
- International Association of Classification Societies** – has published an update entitled '[IACS publishes updated welding rules for marine and offshore structures](#)'.

Recent Accident Reports

- Estonia** – The OJK has released the [final report](#) on the assessment of new evidence relating to the sinking of the ro-ro ferry '*MV Estonia*' in the Baltic Sea on 28th September 1994. This accident was already investigated in 1994-1997, however new evidence came to light in 2020 in the form of underwater video footage showing a breach in the ferry's hull. The assessment looked at the new evidence to decide whether the initial investigation's conclusions should be revised and the investigation reopened. The report concludes that the hull breach shown in the 2020 video footage was a result of the ship's contact with the seabed rather than damage sustained prior to the sinking, and that there was no need to reopen the investigation.
- Singapore** – The TSIBS has released an [investigation report](#) into the collision between the oil/chemical tanker '*Hafnia Nile*' and the tanker '*Ceres I*' in the South China Sea on 19th July 2024. The '*Hafnia Nile*' was underway in a busy traffic area when it struck the anchored '*Ceres I*'. The bow of the '*Ceres I*' breached the hull of the '*Hafnia Nile*', causing its naphta cargo and some bunker fuel to leak, which ignited and caused a fire on both ships. The ships sustained structural damage, and two shore workers on board the '*Ceres I*' sustained serious burns, which proved fatal for one of them. The investigation found several operational failings on the '*Hafnia Nile*', including silenced alarms and inadequate lookout, and insufficient communication attempts on the part of the '*Ceres I*'.
- Sweden** – The SHK has released an [investigation report](#) into the fire on board the dry cargo vessel '*SOFIA*' in the Baltic Sea on 28th November 2024. The ship was making its way from Poland to Sweden in rough seas when an explosion occurred in a cargo hold, causing extensive damage and an electrical power outage. The crew was safely rescued, and the vessel was scrapped. The investigation found that the explosion had been caused by a propane leak igniting in a compartment used as a workshop, a space which was unsuitable for such purpose.
- US** – The NTSB has released an [investigation report](#) into the fire that occurred on board the cargo vessel '*Genius Star XI*' while transiting the North Pacific Ocean between the 25th and 29th December 2023. The ship was carrying lithium-ion battery energy storage systems (BESS) units in heavy weather when a fire was discovered in a cargo hold. The crew was able to extinguish the fire and proceeded to the nearest port. While still underway, a second fire broke out in a different cargo hold, which was also contained until arrival in port. There were no pollution or injuries reported. The investigation determined that improper lashing of the cargo resulted in several BESS units breaking away and becoming deformed in the heavy weather, ultimately leading to thermal runaway and ignition.

Recent IMO Circulars

- HTW 12/6/159 – 08/01/2026** – Comprehensive review of the 1978 STCW Convention and Code.
- MEPC 84/6/3 – 08/01/2026** – Energy Efficiency of Ships.
- SSE 12/12/2 – 08/01/2026** – Development of Amendments to SOLAS Chapter II-2 and the FSS Code Concerning Detection and Control of Fires in Cargo Holds and on the Cargo Deck of Containerships.
- PPR 13/8/9 – 08/01/2026** – Review and Development of NOx Emission Requirements in MARPOL Annex VI and the NOx Technical Code 2008.
- PPR 13/7/5 – 07/01/2026** – Evaluation and Harmonization of Rules and Guidance on the Discharge of Discharge Water from EGCS in to the Aquatic Environment, Including Conditions and Areas.
- PPR 13/6/6 – 07/01/2026** – Reduction of the Impact on the Artic of Black Carbon Emissions from International Shipping.
- PPR 13/5/19 – 07/01/2026** – Development on a Legally Binding Framework for the Control and Management of Ships' Biofouling to Minimize the Transfer of Invasive Aquatic Species.
- PPR 13/13/3 – 07/01/2026** – Review of the IBTS Guidelines and Amendments to the IOPP Certificate and Oil Record Book.
- PPR 13/10/3 – 06/01/2026** – Revision of MARPOL Annex IV and Associated Guidelines.
- Circular Letter No.5098 – 06/01/2026** – 2027 IMO Gender Equality Award.


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

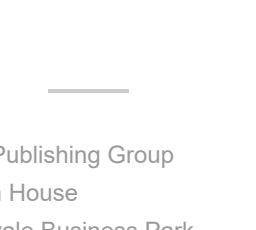
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A Guide to What's Happening at the IMO

The IMO has released the programme 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)







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