

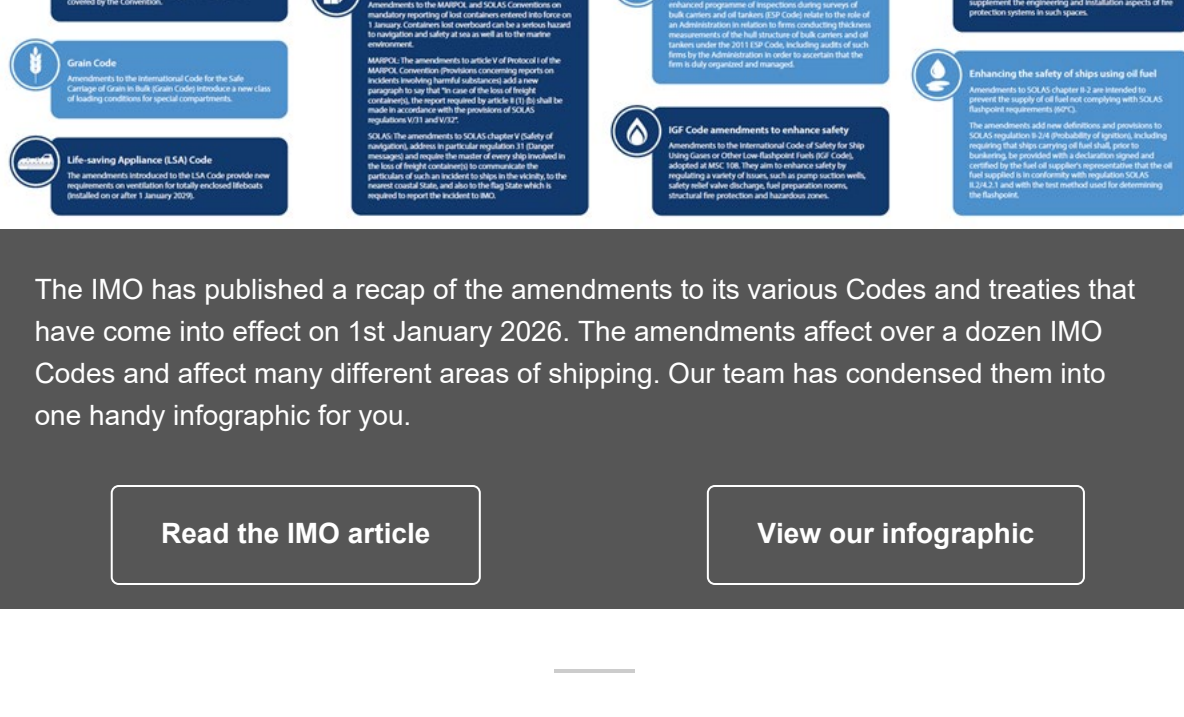
## Shipping Regulations and Guidance

Week 3, 2026 – Friday 16th January  
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## Raft of Shipping Rules in Force from 1 January 2026

Raft of shipping rules in force from 1 January 2026



The IMO has published a recap of the amendments to its various Codes and treaties that have come into effect on 1st January 2026. The amendments affect over a dozen IMO Codes and affect many different areas of shipping. Our team has condensed them into one handy infographic for you.

[Read the IMO article](#)

[View our infographic](#)

## Flag State Regulations and Guidance Update

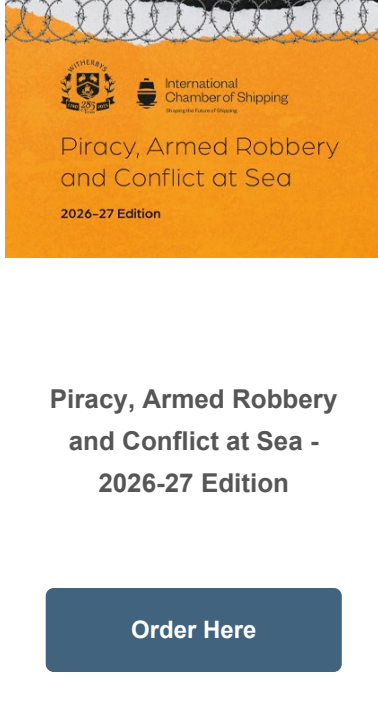
- Bahamas** – has released five updates:
  - [‘Safety Alert 26-01 - Hydrogen Sulphide’](#)
  - [‘Marine Notice 06 Servicing of inflatable lifesaving appliances’](#)
  - [‘Marine Notice 71 Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships’](#)
  - [‘Marine Notice 86 Alternative Design and Arrangements’](#)
  - [‘Marine Notice 87 ECDIS, Nautical Charts & Publications’](#)
  - and three more available [here](#).
- Liberia** – has released two updates:
  - [‘Marine Security Advisory: 01/2026 - Security Situation in the Caribbean Sea’](#)
  - [‘FIR-001 - Fire-Protection Systems and Appliances’](#).
- Panama** – has released three updates:
  - [‘AMN-03/2022 Ukrainian and Russian Waters in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov’](#)
  - [‘MMC-317 Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007’](#)
  - [‘MMC-345 Ballast Water Management Convention 2004, Panama Policy’](#).
- UK** – has released an update entitled [‘Safety Bulletin 36 – Counterfeit pilot ladders: importance of verifying genuine SOLAS approved equipment’](#).

## New from Witherbys

Out January 2026

Due March 2026

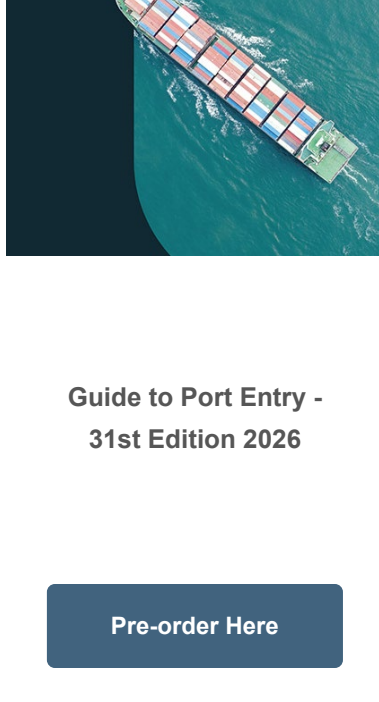
Due February 2026



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Preparations for  
Inspections) - 2026  
Edition



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## Navigation and Security News

- [‘JMJC Weekly Dashboard for the Middle East’](#) (*UKMTO*)
- [‘China Begins Enforcing its Ban on Shipboard Starlink’](#) (*The Maritime Executive*)
- [‘Spanish Operation “White Tide” Makes Largest Cocaine Seizure at Sea’](#) (*The Maritime Executive*)
- [‘Beyond the checklist: Preventing enclosed space fatalities at sea’](#) (*Safety4Sea*)
- [‘Pirates abduct nine crew members from fishing vessel in Gulf of Guinea’](#) (*Safety4Sea*)

## Recent Class Society Guidance

- American Bureau of Shipping** – has released five updates:
  - [‘Materials and Welding - Part 2’](#)
  - [‘Survey After Construction - Part 7’](#)
  - [‘Marine Vessel Rules \(MVR\)’](#)
  - [‘Offshore Rules \(OR\)’](#)
  - [‘High Speed Craft \(HSC Rules\)’](#)
  - and two more available [here](#).
- DNV** – has released an update entitled [‘New Merchant Shipping \(Marine Equipment\) reg. 2025 now in force, revised MSN 1874 amendment available’](#).
- Korean Register** – has released an update entitled [‘Request for Cooperation regarding Development of 2027 Classification Technical Rules’](#).
- Lloyd’s Register** – has released an update entitled [‘01/2026: New SOLAS requirements for anchor handling winches’](#).
- ClassNK** – has released an update entitled [‘Release of the “NOTATION HANDBOOK \(2026-1 Edition\)”](#).
- The American Club** – has released an update entitled [‘Good Catch Update: Animation - Ice, Ice Safety Part 2’](#).
- Britannia** – has released three updates:
  - [‘Crush Hazards at Sea: Safe Handling of Heavy Steel Plates’](#)
  - [‘A Sharper Focus on Eye Safety at Sea’](#)
  - [‘Personal Safety During the Winter Months’](#).
- Gard** – has released three updates:
  - [‘Is your PMS keeping pace with manufacturer updates?’](#)
  - [‘Visiting a California port anytime soon?’](#)
  - [‘Maritime cocaine smuggling – a European perspective’](#).
- Japan P&I Club** – has released an update entitled [‘China Use of Starlink Service in Chinese Waters \(Case of Fine Imposed on Foreign Vessel\)’](#).
- The Shipowners Club** – has released an update entitled [‘New Pollution Fine Tariffs in Turkish Waters for 2026’](#).
- NorthStandard** – has released two updates:
  - [‘Mandatory Container Loss Reporting: New SOLAS Rules Effective January 2026’](#)
  - [‘China: Correspondents’ advice on maritime-related risks’](#).
- Skuld** – has released an update entitled [‘Keeping the ship moving: Step-in agreements and what they mean for charterers’](#).
- UK P&I** – has released two updates:
  - [‘Beyond the Checklist: Preventing Enclosed Space Fatalities at Sea’](#)
  - [‘IMO Regulatory Update 2026’](#).
- West** – has released an update entitled [‘Defence Guide - Hold cleaning in a nutshell \(time charters\)’](#).

## Other Regulations and Guidance in the News

- ReCAAP** – has issued its [weekly piracy report](#).
- BIMCO** – has released three updates:
  - [‘FuelEU and Beyond: Translating Regulatory Change into Commercial Clarity’](#)
  - [‘BIMCO Documentary Committee adopts new SUPERMAN 2025 contract’](#)
  - [‘Turning delay into opportunity: collective reflection on the net-zero transition’](#).
- ICC International Maritime Bureau** – has published an update entitled [‘IMB Piracy Report January-December 2025’](#).
- International Institute of Marine Surveying** – has published an update entitled [‘New EU ETS rules take effect from January 2026’](#).
- European Maritime Safety Agency** – has released two updates:
  - [‘Safe transport of AFVs on ro-ro ships study published’](#)
  - [‘New reports on the safety of ammonia and hydrogen as fuels in shipping’](#).
- Thetius and StormGeo** – have published a report entitled [‘Co-pilot of the Sea: Exploring the Human Intelligence Behind Maritime AI’](#).

## Recent Accident Reports

- Marshall Islands** – The RMIMA has released an [investigation report](#) into the fatal injury which occurred on board the bulk carrier *‘Amphitrite’* in the Java Sea on 10th March 2025. The ship’s port side anchor had been stuck in the hawse pipe, and two crew members entered the pipe with the intention of using a hydraulic jack to try and free it, but suffered severe, and for one of them fatal, injuries when the anchor suddenly moved, pinning them between the anchor chain and the wall of the hawse pipe. The investigation found that the decision to have the crew members attempt to free the anchor had been made without consulting the management company, and without adequate risk assessment. In addition, other crew members did not exercise their stop-work authority.
- US** – The NTSB has released an [investigation report](#) into the collision between the offshore supply vessel *‘Jack Edwards’* and the tugboat *‘Julie C’* near Georgetown, Guyana on 17th March 2024. The OSV was inbound, about 3 miles from Georgetown, when it veered to port and struck the outbound cargo vessel. Two crew members were injured in the collision, and 2,200 gallons of diesel fuel were released into the water. The investigation found that steering systems alarms had been ignored in the weeks prior to the incident, and the system’s erratic behaviour had been noticed several hours before the collision. Had the chief engineer been informed, he could have inspected the system before the collision occurred.
- Gibraltar** – The OMAICO has released an [investigation report](#) into the fatal accident on board the tanker *‘Nisytros’* in the port of Gibraltar on 20th May 2025. The ship was mooring ship-to-ship in preparation for bunkering operations when the crew member operating the port forward mooring winch became entangled between the heaving rope and the winch, sustaining fatal injuries. The investigation found that the exact cause for the accident could not be determined as there were no witnesses, however there were several operational failings around the mooring operation, including inadequate mooring parties, and risk assessment.

## Recent IMO Circulars

- HTW 12/6/162 – 14/01/2026** – Comprehensive review of the 1978 STCW Convention and Code.
- HTW 12/1/2 – 14/01/2026** – Adoption of the Agenda.
- SSE 12/17/2 – 14/01/2026** – Development of a Safety Regulatory Framework to Support the Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships Using New Technologies and Alternative Fuels.
- SSE 12/13 – 14/01/2026** – Development of Provisions to Consider Prohibiting the Use of Fire-fighting Foams Containing Fluorinated Substances, in Addition to PFOS, for Fire-fighting on Board Ships.
- SSE 12/12/3 – 14/01/2026** – 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.
- SSE 12/16/5 – 14/01/2026** – Evaluation of Adequacy of Fire Protection, Detection and Extinction Arrangements in Vehicle, Special Category and Ro-ro Spaces in Order to Reduce the Fire Risk of Ships Carrying New Energy Vehicles.
- SSE 12/6 – 14/01/2026** – Amendments to SOLAS Chapter III and Chapter IV of the LSA Code to Require the Carriage of Self-righting or Canopied Reversible Liferafts for New Ships.
- COLREG.2/Circ.80/Rev.3 – 14/01/2026** – Traffic Separation Schemes and Associated Routing Measures “in Norra Kvarken” Temporary Suspension.
- SSE 12/6 – 14/01/2026** – Revision of the 2010 FTP Code to Allow for New Fire Protection Systems and Materials.
- FAL 50/4 – 13/01/2026** – Amendments to the FAL Convention to Introduce Mandatory Reporting of the API and BRI for Maritime Transport.

## 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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