



## Shipping Regulations and Guidance

Week 4, 2026 – Friday 23rd January

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### Flag State Regulations and Guidance Update

- **Malta** – has released two updates:
  - ['Information Notice 59 - Finland's winter navigation 2025-2026 publication'](#)
  - ['Information Notice 60 - End of Life of Marioff HI-Fog 1000 and HI-Fog 2000 sprinkler nozzles'](#).
- **Panama** – has released five updates:
  - ['Ship Protection Measures to Pirates Attacks'](#)
  - ['Ship to Ship \(STS\) transfer operations and flag notification'](#)
  - ['Panama Policy on SEEMP, IMO-DCS and Carbon Intensity Indicator'](#)
  - ['Verifiers Authorized by the Panama Maritime Authority on SEEMP, IMO DCS and Carbon Intensity Indicator'](#)
  - ['Maritime Labour Certificate \(MLC\) – Certification Process – Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 as amended \(MLC\)'.](#)
- **Norway** – has released an update entitled ['Use of palletising machines and other automated equipment on board'](#).
- **UK** – has released two updates:
  - ['MGN 702 \(M\) Amendment 2 Maritime autonomous surface ships of less than 2.5 metres in LOA'](#)
  - ['MGN 705 \(M\) Amendment 1 Remotely operated unmanned vessels \(ROUVs\) of 2.5 metres to less than 4.5 metres in length overall'](#).
- **US** – has released an update entitled ['Safety Alert 03-26: Immersion Suit Maintenance and Inspections'](#).

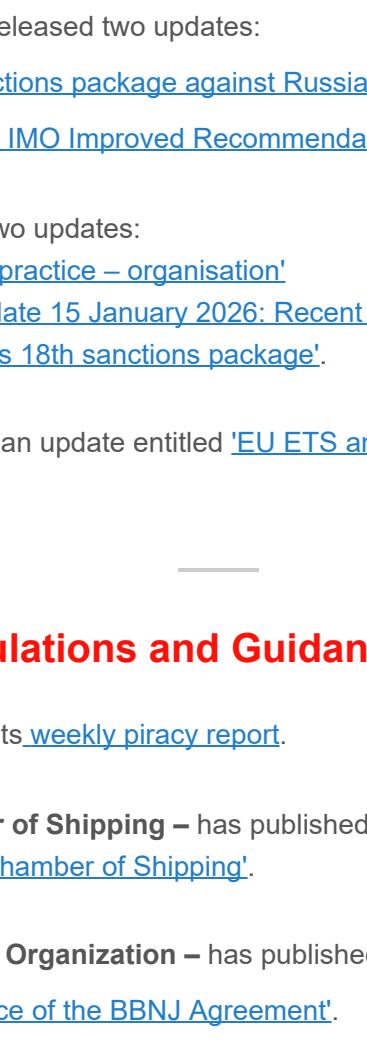
### New from Witherbys

Out January 2026



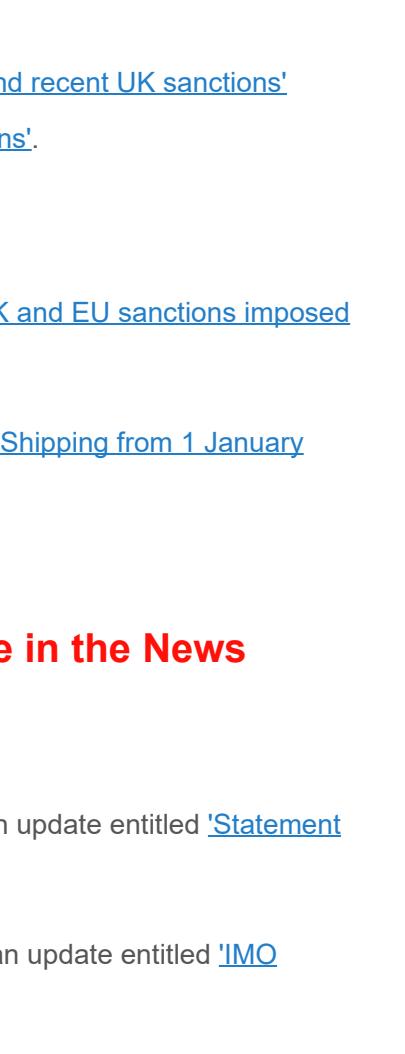
Australia and New Zealand Biofouling - 1st Edition 2026

Out January 2026



Deck Procedures Guide - First Edition

Due March 2026



ECDIS Passage Planning and Watchkeeping (inc. Preparations for Inspections) - 2026 Edition

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### Navigation and Security News

- ['JMIC Weekly Dashboard for the Middle East'](#) (UKMTO)
- ['Pilot Dies in Fall From Pilot Ladder in Panama City, Florida'](#) (The Maritime Executive)
- ['Containership suffers cargo loss due to extreme weather'](#) (Safety4Sea)
- ['The hidden trauma of piracy'](#) (Splash 24/7)
- ['ILO: 390 cases of seafarer abandonment recorded in 2025'](#) (Safety4Sea)
- ['French Navy Seize Nearly 5 Tonnes Of Cocaine From Ship Bound For Australia'](#) (Marine Insight)

### Recent Class Society Guidance

- **Lloyd's Register** – has released three updates:
  - ['Research report - Effective alarm management in the maritime industry'](#)
  - ['UK-led Maritime Consortium Sets Out Plan for Nuclear-Powered Fleet'](#)
  - ['02/2026: Amendments \(08-25\) to IMSBC Code – Addition of two new MHB cargo schedules.'](#)

### Recent P&I Club Guidance

- **The American Club** – has released an update entitled ['Loss Prevention: Ship Shape - Health, Wellness, Diet & Fitness'](#).
- **Britannia** – has released three updates:
  - ['EU and UK sanctions against Russia'](#)
  - ['Operating Product and/or Chemical Tankers'](#)
  - ['Operating Oil, Bulk, Ore Carriers \(OBO's\)'](#).

- **Gard** – has released two updates:
  - ['16/2025 Amendments to Rules 2026'](#)
  - ['Check your charterparty if trading to the US'](#).

- **Japan P&I Club** – has released an update entitled ['Oil Price Cap - Update 15 January 2026'](#).

- **NorthStandard** – has released two updates:
  - ['The EU's 18th sanctions package against Russia and recent UK sanctions'](#)
  - ['Enclosed Spaces – IMO Improved Recommendations'](#).

- **Skuld** – has released two updates:
  - ['Passage plan best practice – organisation'](#)
  - ['Oil Price Cap – update 15 January 2026: Recent UK and EU sanctions imposed against Russia: EU's 18th sanctions package'](#).

- **UK P&I** – has released an update entitled ['EU ETS and Shipping from 1 January 2026'](#).

### Recent IMO Circulars

- ['LC/SG 49/INF.7 – 21/01/2026 – CO2 Sequestration in Sub-seabed Geological Formations'](#)
- ['LC/SG 49/INF.3 – 21/01/2026 – Monitoring and Assessment of the Marine Environment'](#)
- ['SSE 12/6/1 – 21/01/2026 – 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'](#)
- ['SSE 12/INF.15 – 21/01/2026 – Evaluation of Adequacy of Fire Protection, Detection and Extinction Arrangements in Carcasses, Special Category and Ro-ro Spaces in Order to Reduce the Fire Risk of Ships Carrying New Energy Vehicles'](#)
- ['MSE 12/14/1 – 21/01/2026 – Comprehensive Review of the Requirements for Lifeboats and Rescuer Boats, Launching Appliances and Release Gear \(Resolution MSC.40\(96\)\) to Address Challenges in their Implementation'](#)
- ['LC/SG 49/INF.5 – 21/01/2026 – Coastal Management Issues Associated with Activities to Prevent Marine Pollution'](#)
- ['LEG 113/7 – 21/01/2026 – Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships'](#)
- ['LC/SG 49/3/2 – 21/01/2026 – Marine Geoengineering'](#)
- ['LC/SG 49/INF.6 – 21/01/2026 – Habitat Modification and Enhancement'](#)
- ['HTW 12/10/3 – 20/01/2026 – Election of Chair and Vice-chair for 2027'](#)

### 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)
- 13-22 May – Maritime Environment Protection Committee (MEPC)
- 08-12 June – Technical Cooperation Committee (TCC)
- 22-26 June – Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation, Communication and Search and Rescue (NSCR)

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