

Shipping Regulations and Guidance

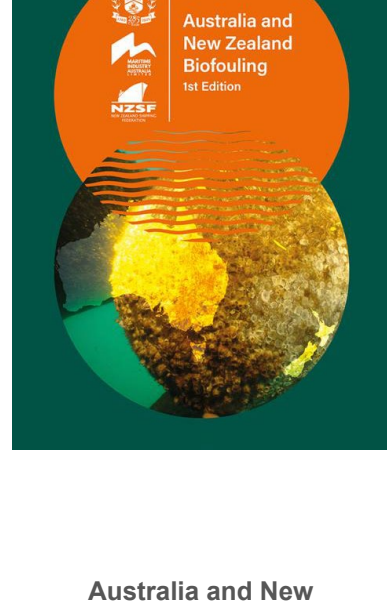

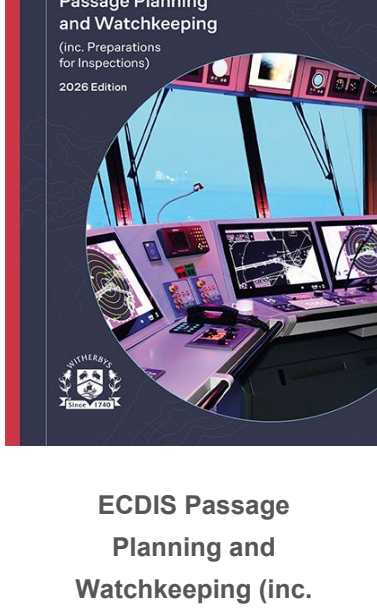
Week 4, 2026 – Friday 23rd January
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Flag State Regulations and Guidance Update

- **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	Out January 2026	Due March 2026
		
Australia and New Zealand Biofouling - 1st Edition 2026	Deck Procedures Guide - First Edition	ECDIS Passage Planning and Watchkeeping (inc. Preparations for Inspections) - 2026 Edition
Order Here	Order Here	Pre-order Here

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 \(OBOs\)'](#).
- **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'](#).

Other Regulations and Guidance in the News

- **ReCAAP** – has issued its [weekly piracy report](#).
- **International Chamber of Shipping** – has published an update entitled ['Statement from the International Chamber of Shipping'](#).
- **International Maritime Organization** – has published an update entitled ['IMO welcomes entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement'](#).
- **International Association of Classification Societies** – has published an update entitled ['Ammonia Power: IACS updates UR M78 to drive zero-carbon shipping'](#).
- **Port Authority of New South Wales** – has released an update entitled ['HMI 25-02 E: Safe Marine Pilot Transfer \(MPT\) Arrangement – Pilot Ladder'](#).

Recent Accident Reports

- **UK** – The MAIB has released an [investigation report](#) into the fatal pilot boarding accident on board the ro-ro ship *'Finnhawk'* near the Humber estuary, England, on 8th January 2023. The pilot was transferring from the pilot vessel *'Humber Saturn'* when he likely suffered a cardiac event, falling back onto the deck of the pilot vessel before dropping into the water. The rescue was affected by a malfunctioning recovery platform, and the pilot was pronounced dead upon arrival at the hospital. The investigation found that the pilot was suffering from several chronic health conditions, and that his colleagues had raised concerns about his fitness that day. There were therefore operational failures in addition to the equipment failure on board the pilot vessel, in particular regarding the issuance of the pilot's medical certificate, and the port's stop-work authority procedures.
- **US** – The NTSB has released an [investigation report](#) into the sinking of the barge *'PTC 706'* on the Lower Mississippi River near New Roads, Louisiana on 16th March 2024, and the subsequent breakup of the *'Chad Pregracke'* tow it had been part of. The barge was at the head of the tow when it sunk by the bow and was rapidly driven underwater by the speed of the tow. No pollution or injuries were reported. The investigation found a fracture along a butt weld on the hull of the barge, but could not confirm with certainty whether said fracture had existed before the accident and the cause remains undetermined.
- **Germany** – The BSU has released an [investigation report](#) into the pilot boarding accident on board the car carrier *'Supreme Ace'* on the River Ems estuary on 15th January 2023. The pilot was transferring from the ship to a pilot tender in rough weather, and fell in the water when the tender he was about to step on dropped into a wave trough. He was rescued ten minutes later. The investigation concluded that the pilot transfer should not have been initiated in the sea conditions on that night, and that all other factors involved, from the pilot's PPE to the execution of the rescue, had been adequate.

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 Vehicle, Special Category and Ro-ro Spaces in Order to Reduce the Fire Risk of Ships Carrying New Energy Vehicles.
- **SSE 12/14/1 – 21/01/2026** – Comprehensive Review of the Requirements for Maintenance, Thorough Examination, Operational Testing, Overhaul and Repair of Lifeboats and Rescue Boats, Launching Appliances and Release Gear (Resolution MSC.402(96)) to Address Challenges with 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 Geoen지니어ing.
- **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)
- 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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