

Shipping Regulations and Guidance

Week 6, 2026 – Friday 6th January
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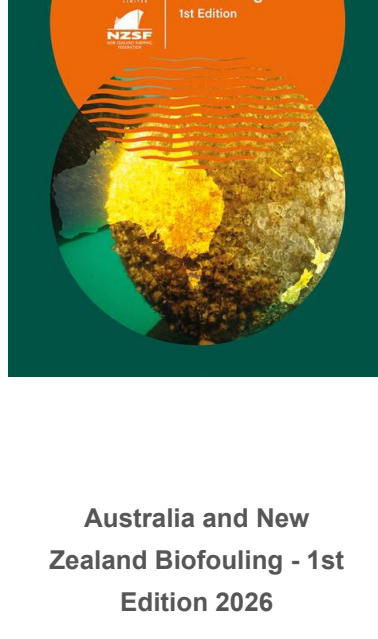
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Flag State Regulations and Guidance Update

- Cyprus** – has released an update entitled '[Circular 03-2026 Safety and security of vessels under Cyprus Flag calling or approaching ports/countries where armed/civil conflicts take place](#)'.
- Liberia** – has released three updates:
 - ['Marine Advisory: 01/2026 - Company and Shipboard Audits of the SEEMP \(Supersedes Marine Advisory: 15/2025\)'](#)
 - ['ADM-003 - Consolidated List of Fees and Charges for Official Documents and Services'](#)
 - ['ADM-007 - List of Publications, Certificates, and Documents Required to be Carried on Board Ships'](#).
- Marshall Islands** – has released an update entitled '[Marine Notice No. 7-041-1 Rev. Jan/2026 - Entering Enclosed Spaces - Safety Precautions](#)'.
- Malta** – has released two updates:
 - ['MS Notice 203 - Standards for the appointment and responsibilities of resident agents'](#)
 - ['Technical Notice SLS. 40 - Lifting appliances and anchor handling winches'](#).
- Panama** – has released four updates:
 - ['MMN-04/2026 - Key Detainable Deficiencies for Panama-flagged Vessels Under USCG Port State Control - 2025'](#)
 - ['MMN-03/2026 - Temporary Suspension of Panamanian Fishing-related Activities in the NEAFC Convention Area for the Year 2026'](#)
 - ['MMN-02/2026 - Summary of IMO Requirements Entering into Force in 2026'](#)
 - ['MMN-01/2026 - Port State Control \(PSC\) Deficiencies Related to Voyage Planning and Execution Within Planned Navigation Corridors'](#).
- Singapore** – has released an update entitled '[Port Marine Circular No. 02 of 2026 - Maritime Declaration of Health](#)'.
- UK** – has released four updates:
 - ['MGN 90 \(M+F\) Amendment 5 The merchant shipping and fishing vessels \(manual handling operations\) regulations 1998'](#)
 - ['MGN 413 \(F\) Amendment 3 voluntary code of practice for employment of non European economic area \(EEA\) fishing crew'](#)
 - ['MGN 474 \(M\) Amendment 1 retention of crew agreements for vessels not subject to the MLC requirement to have seafarer employment agreements'](#)
 - ['MGN 585 \(F\) Amendment 1 ILO Work in fishing convention, payment of fishermen'](#).

New from Witherbys

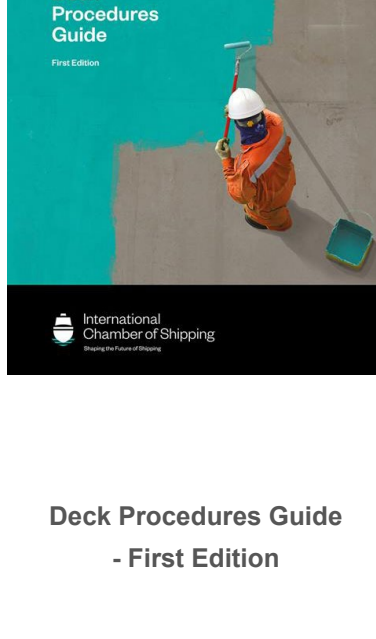
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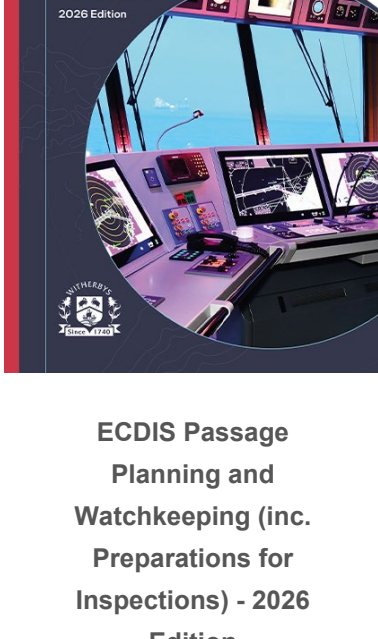
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ECDIS Passage Planning and Watchkeeping (inc. Preparations for Inspections) - 2026 Edition

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Navigation and Security News

- ['JMJC Weekly Dashboard for the Middle East' \(UKMTO\)](#)
- ['Divers find wreck of ill-fated Philippine ferry Trisha Kerstin 3' \(Baird Maritime\)](#)
- ['Aging Freighter Runs Aground Near Panama Canal's Atlantic Entrance' \(The Maritime Executive\)](#)
- ['Captain arrested in heroin smuggling case two weeks after joining boxship' \(Tradewinds\)](#)
- ['Red flags raised over growing cargo theft and freight fraud' \(Splash 24/7\)](#)

Recent Class Society Guidance

- American Bureau of Shipping** – has released four updates:
 - ['UK MRV and UK ETS'](#)
 - ['News Brief: SDC 12'](#)
 - ['Immersion Suit Maintenance and Inspections'](#)
 - ['EU ETS: Inclusion of Maritime Emissions'](#).
- Bureau Veritas** – has released an update entitled '[NR671 Ammonia-fuelled ships](#)'.
- Korean Register** – has released three updates:
 - ['SDC 12 - News Flash'](#)
 - ['Advance notice on the revision of the Classification Technical Rules\(Hull\)'](#)
 - ['Port Rule Information - Implementation of Biofouling Management Requirements for Ships Calling at or Operating in Brazilian Waters \(Rev.1\)'.](#)
- Lloyd's Register** – has released an update entitled '['FOBAS Fuel Insight: Fuel quality reports'](#)'.

Recent P&I Club Guidance

- The American Club** – has released two updates:
 - ['Circular No. 03/26 - OFAC Issues General License Authorizing Certain Activities Involving Venezuelan-Origin Oil'](#)
 - ['Circular No. 04/26 - Russian LNG Import Ban Update: European Union \(EU\)'.](#)
- Britannia** – has released an update entitled '['Brazil: Federal Police Intensifies Enforcement on Chinese Crew Aboard Foreign-flagged Vessels'](#)'.
- Gard** – has released three updates:
 - ['Caution necessary when loading Nickel Ore in the Philippines'](#)
 - ['What is changing for shipping in 2026'](#)
 - ['Circular 14/2025: EU, UK and US Sanctions Updates'](#).
- Japan P&I Club** – has released three updates:
 - ['EU Russian LNG Import Ban Update'](#)
 - ['China - Introduction to Key Revisions of the Maritime Code of the People's Republic of China'](#)
 - ['China - Shanghai MSA Issues "Measures for the Administration of Ship Crude Oil Washing Operations"'.](#)
- NorthStandard** – has released three updates:
 - ['EU, UK and US Sanctions Updates'](#)
 - ['Seafarer Happiness Index shows modest recovery at end of volatile year, but warning signs remain'](#)
 - ['Yemen: Port Situation'](#).
- Skuld** – has released two updates:
 - ['Fatigue'](#)
 - ['EU, UK and US sanctions updates'](#).
- Steamship Mutual** – has released an update entitled '['Circular No. L.473 Russian Oil Price Cap'](#)'.
- West** – has released two updates:
 - ['Reminder: The Dangers of Carrying Nickel Ore'](#)
 - ['Onboard Repairs: Why Class and Statutory Compliance Matters'](#).

Other Regulations and Guidance in the News

- ReCAAP** – has issued its [weekly piracy report](#).
- OCIMF** – has released two updates:
 - ['OVID Programme Survey 2024/25 Summary Report'](#)
 - ['SIRE 2.0 Programme Survey 2024/25 Summary Report'](#).
- ICS** – has released two updates:
 - ['Shifting currents: the future of alternative fuels in maritime'](#)
 - ['ICS in Action – January 2026'](#).
- IIMS** – has released two updates:
 - ['CIMAC and MBF second joint whitepaper "Environment for the Use of Batteries in Deep-Sea Shipping"'](#)
 - ['Japan emerges as an early adopter of advanced fire detection on RoRo vessels'](#).
- BIMCO** – has published an update entitled '[Shipping through protected waters on the High Seas: The Thermal Dome as a case study for future ocean governance'](#)'.
- INTERCARGO** – has published an update entitled '[Annual Review 2025'](#)'.
- IACS** – has released an update entitled '[IACS Issues New Unified Requirement on ammonia release mitigation systems'](#)'.

Recent Accident Reports

- New Zealand** – The TAIC has released an [investigation report](#) into the grounding of the pilot vessel '*Takitimu II*' near Bluff, Southland, on 26th December 2024. The vessel was taking a pilot to board an incoming vessel in limited visibility, steered too close to shore and subsequently grounded. The investigation found that the Master had been overreliant on visual references to steer and should have utilised the electronic navigation systems on board to help them navigate in the limited visibility conditions, but was not proficient in their use. The vessel's speed was also too high to alter course in time once the hazard had been identified.
- Malta** – The MSIU has released an [investigation report](#) into a fatal accident on board the bulk carrier '*Ocean Century*' in the port of Gwangyang, Republic of Korea on 24th January 2025. A surveyor became trapped between the hatch and the coaming of a cargo hold as it was being closed, sustaining severe head injuries. The investigation found that the crew member operating the hatch cover had no visibility of the area where the surveyor was found, but it could not be determined why the surveyor had been in that particular area as there were no witnesses to the accident.

Recent IMO Circulars

- MEPC 84/INF.10 – 04/02/2026** – Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships.
- MEPC 84/14/2 – 04/02/2026** – Work Programme of the Committee and Subsidiary Bodies.
- MEPC 84/2/6 – 04/02/2026** – Decisions of Other Bodies.
- MEPC 84/5 – 04/02/2026** – Air Pollution Prevention.
- E&T 44/INF.2 – 03/02/2026** – Preparation of Draft Amendment 09-27 to the IMSBC Code.
- MEPC 84/6/7 – 03/02/2026** – Energy Efficiency of Ships.
- Circular Letter No.5120 – 03/02/2026** – Communication from the Government of the Russian Federation.
- SSE 12/17/3 – 03/02/2026** – Development of a Safety Regulatory Framework to Support the Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships Using New Technologies and Alternative Fuels.
- MEPC 84/4/4 – 03/02/2026** – Harmful Aquatic Organisms in Ballast Water.
- LEG 113/14 – 02/02/2026** – Suitability of IMO Liability and Compensation Regimes with Respect to Alternative Fuels.

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.

- 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)
- 06-10 July – IMO Council
- 20-24 July – Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments (III)
- 14-18 September – Sub-Committee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC)
- 05-09 October – Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties (London Convention 1972) and Meeting of Contracting Parties (London Protocol 1996)
- 02-06 November – IMO Council
- 16-20 November – Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC)
- 07-11 December – Maritime Safety Committee (MSC)