

Shipping Regulations and Guidance

Week 7, 2026 – Friday 13th February
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Flag State Regulations and Guidance Update

- Cyprus** – has released two updates:
 - ['Circular 04-2026 Implementation of the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships'](#)
 - ['SIN 1-2026 New European Union restrictive measures in view of the gravity of the situation in Ukraine'](#)
- Cayman Islands** – has released an update entitled ['Guidance Note 01/2025 Rev 1.4 Tenders and Auxiliary Tenders of Large Commercial Yachts'](#).
- Denmark** – has released four updates:
 - ['Order no. 1517 Order on the Psychological Working Environment at Sea on Merchant Ships \(Working Environment on Ships\)'](#)
 - ['Order no. 1396 Order on living quarters and leisure facilities on board merchant ships'](#)
 - ['Order no. 1379 Order on the maintenance of crew data on merchant and fishing vessels'](#)
 - ['Order no. 1391 Order on insurance or another guarantee to cover the private legal liability for oil pollution damage from ships'](#)
 - and eight more [here](#).
- Isle of Man** – has released an update entitled ['TAN 001-26 Amendments to the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue \(IAMSAR\) Manual Volume III'](#).
- Liberia** – has released two updates:
 - ['Marine Advisory 02/2026 - Actuating Heads of Fixed CO2 Fire-Extinguishing System Cylinders'](#)
 - ['Marine Security Bulletin 01/2026: Report of Piracy Activity in the Gulf of Guinea'](#).
- Singapore** – has released an update entitled ['Circular No. 1 of 2026 Recognition of Certificates Issued by Foreign Administrations under the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 \(STCW 1978\), as Amended'](#).
- Panama** – has released three updates:
 - ['Circular 217 Ship to Ship \(STS\) transfer operations and flag notification'](#)
 - ['Circular 270 Fishing Vessels and other ships engaged in fishing related activities'](#)
 - ['Circular 169 Radio Accounting Authorities and Point Service Activations'](#).
- UK** – has released two updates:
 - ['MIN 689 \(M\) Amendment 3: Food and catering recognised qualifications'](#)
 - ['MSN 1870 \(M+F\) Amendment 6 Personal protective equipment regs 1999'](#).
- US** – has released two updates:
 - ['Safety Alert 04-26: Container Operations with Vessels Alongside'](#)
 - ['Safety Alert 05-26: Hazards of Bottom-Contact Operations Near Offshore Pipeline Installations'](#).

New from Witherbys

Out January 2026

Due February 2026

Due February 2026



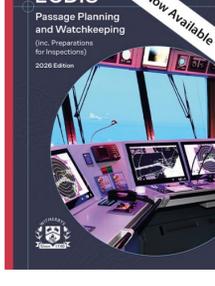
Australia and New Zealand Biofouling - 1st Edition 2026

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Passage Planning Guide Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS) - (PPG - SOMS) 2026-27 Edition

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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' \(UKMTO\)](#)
- ['Back-to-Back Cocaine Seizures Top 9 Tons in French Polynesian Waters' \(gCaptain\)](#)
- ['Singapore Jails Captain for Lying About Fatal Incident on Gas Tanker' \(The Maritime Executive\)](#)
- ['Zero-emission route launched between North Sea ports' \(Safety4Sea\)](#)
- ['Record low sea levels in the Baltic Sea could reshape sea's physical conditions' \(Phys.org\)](#)

Recent Class Society Guidance

- American Bureau of Shipping** – has released an update entitled ['Biofouling Management Regulation in Brazil'](#).
- Indian Register** – has released two updates:
 - ['Circular No:001/2026: GOI – DGS order No. 01 of 2026 Reg. Age Norms and other Qualitative Parameters with respect to Vessels'](#)
 - ['Circular No:002/2026: Revised Recommendations for Entering Enclosed Spaces Aboard Ships'](#).
- Korean Register** – has released an update entitled ['Guidance on the Issuance of Integrated IHM \(EU\) and IRRC \(EU\) Certificates for EU Flagged Vessels'](#).
- Lloyd's Register** – has released two updates:
 - ['LR-GN-047 Guidance Notes for Methyl and Ethyl Alcohol Fuels'](#)
 - ['03/2026: Zero emission requirements in Norwegian heritage fjords'](#).
- ClassNK** – has released an update entitled ['TEC-1372 Measures to Address the Revised Recommendations for Entering Enclosed Spaces Aboard Ships \(MSC.581\(110\)\)'](#).

Recent P&I Club Guidance

- Britannia** – has released an update entitled ['Loss Prevention Insight - Carriage of Bulk Soya Bean Cargo: an Overview for the Maritime Sector'](#).
- Gard** – has released three updates:
 - ['Solar storms at sea: Why space weather matters for shipping'](#)
 - ['Have you checked your immersion suits lately?'](#)
 - ['Riding the storm: Managing heavy weather risks'](#).
- Japan P&I Club** – has released two updates:
 - ['China Latest Ice Condition in Northern Chinese Ports'](#)
 - ['Hazards of Carrying Cargoes Classified as Group A under the IMSBC Code'](#).
- Skuld** – has released an update entitled ['Maritime security in the northern Black Sea: Operational realities and emerging risks'](#).
- UK P&I** – has released an update entitled ['Circular 02/26: UK Club Board resolutions in respect of War Risk, Supplementary Bio-Chem and Oil Pollution cover'](#).

Other Regulations and Guidance in the News

- ReCAAP** – has issued its [weekly piracy report](#).
- BIMCO** – has published an update entitled ['An overview of BIMCO's FuelEU Maritime Clause for Memoranda of Agreement 2025'](#).
- IIMS** – has released three updates:
 - ['Japan completes first ship-to-ship methanol bunkering at anchorage'](#)
 - ['Korean working group to develop safety management and marine discharge standards'](#)
 - ['Vehicle Carrier Safety Forum Response Guidelines'](#).
- IMO** – has published an update entitled ['IMO launches global campaign to put maritime "policy into practice"'](#).

Recent Accident Reports

- Cyprus** – The MAIC has released an [investigation report](#) into the serious injury on board the container ship 'Varamo' on the East Coast of Argentina, on 8th February 2025. The ship was being towed for repairs when both tow lines parted and the vessel started to drift. The heavy weather caused the ship to roll heavily over several hours, and a fire extinguisher became dislodged, triggering a chain of events culminating in the pilot chair on which the Towing Master was seating becoming dislodged, and chair and Master being thrown repeatedly across the bridge along with various items, resulting in serious injury to the Towing Master. The investigation recommended securing heavy items on the bridge appropriately to avoid such incidents.
- Cyprus** – The MAIC has released an [investigation report](#) into the injury on board the container ship 'Lena' on the East Coast of Argentina, on 3rd January 2025. The crew was moving steel plates on the main deck when the vessel's pitch caused the plates to tip forward, overpowering the two crew members holding them, trapping the bosun against a container cell guide and crushing two of his fingers. The investigation identified complacency as the main contributing factor to the accident.
- UK** – The MAIB has released an [investigation report](#) into the collision between the bulk carrier 'Polesie' and the cargo ship 'Verity' in the German Bight traffic separation scheme, on 24th October 2023. While crossing the German Bight TSS, the 'Verity' failed to give way to the 'Polesie', and sank rapidly after the collision. Five of its crew members were lost. Based on the evidence available, the investigation found that actions taken to avoid collision had been insufficient and inadequate on both sides, and that the local VTS services' involvement had been partially counterproductive.

Recent IMO Circulars

- LEG 113/3 – 12/02/2026** – Facilitation of the Entry into Force and Harmonized Interpretation of the 2010 HNS Protocol.
- MEPC 84/INF.11 – 11/02/2026** – Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships.
- LEG 113/6 – 11/02/2026** – Measures to Prevent Unlawful Practices Associated with the Fraudulent Registration and Fraudulent Registries of Ships.
- LEG 113/5/2 – 11/02/2026** – Advice and Guidance in Connection with the Implementation of IMO Instruments.
- FAL 50/4/1 – 11/02/2026** – Amendments to the FAL Convention to Introduce Mandatory Reporting of the API and BRI to the FAL Convention to Introduce Mandatory Cybersecurity Measures to Safeguard the Maritime Single Windows.
- FAL 50/4 – 13/01/2026** – Amendments to the FAL Convention to Introduce Mandatory Cybersecurity Measures to Safeguard the Maritime Single Windows.
- MSC 111/20 – 13/01/2026** – Election of Vice-chair for 2026.
- HTW 12/INF.2 – 11/02/2026** – Reports on Unlawful Practices Associated with Certificates of Competency.
- BWM.2/Circ.85 – 11/02/2026** – International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004.
- LEG 113/12 – 11/02/2026** – Development of Guidelines or Best Practices on the Registration of Ships.

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 (IIM)
- 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)

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