

Shipping Regulations and Guidance

Week 9, 2026 – Friday 27th February
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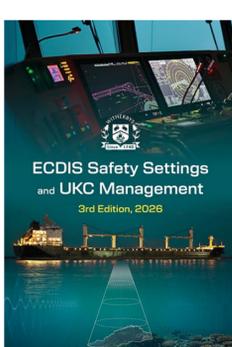
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Flag State Regulations and Guidance Update

- **Cayman Islands** – has released an update entitled '[CIGN 04/2025 Rev 1.1 Mandatory Reporting of Certain Incidents and Occurrences on Board Cayman Islands Ships](#)'.
- **Cyprus** – has released an update entitled '[Circular 05-2026 Tonnage Tax of Owners of Foreign Ships, Charterers and Ship Managers](#)'.
- **Liberia** – has released an update entitled '[Marine Advisory: 03/2026 - Engine Room Fire Prevention – Compliance with Safety Regulations, Marine Notices, and Mandatory Engine Room Safety Standards](#)'.
- **Marshall Islands** – has released four updates:
 - '[MSA-04-26 Detentions Related to Inventory of Hazardous Materials](#)'
 - '[MSA-03-26 Anchor Windlass Motor Protection](#)'
 - '[MSA-02-26 Enclosed Space Entry Incidents](#)'
 - '[MSA-01-26 Hazardous Environment: Non-toxic Bulk Liquid Cargoes](#)'.
- **Singapore** – has released two updates:
 - '[Shipping Circular No. 2 of 2026 - Prevention of Pollution of the Sea \(Air\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2026](#)'
 - '[Port Marine Circular No. 03 of 2026 - Maritime Declaration of Health](#)'.

New from Witherbys

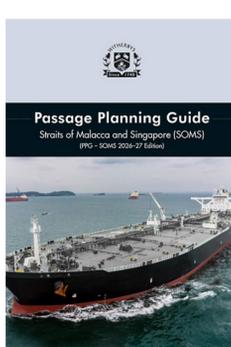
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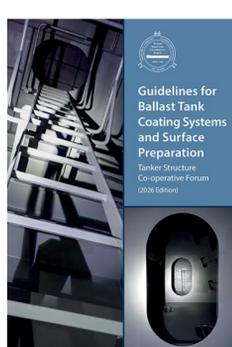
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Navigation and Security News

- '[JMJC Weekly Dashboard for the Middle East](#)' (*UKMTO*)
- '[Chinese Ship Completes First Autonomous Docking and Cargo Handling](#)' (*The Maritime Executive*)
- '[Maersk and MSC handed temporary running of Hutchison's Panamanian terminals](#)' (*Splash 24/7*)
- '[Maritime cyber incidents jumped 103% in 2025](#)' (*Safety4Sea*)

Recent Class Society Guidance

- **American Bureau of Shipping** – has released an update entitled '[SOLAS Requirements for Lifting Appliances and Anchor Handling Winches on Board Ships](#)'.
- **Bureau Veritas** – has released two updates:
 - '[NR493 Mooring systems for offshore units](#)'
 - '[New Emission Control Areas \(ECAs\) for the Control of Nitrogen Oxides \(NOx\), Sulphur Oxides \(SOx\), and Particulate Matter \(PM\); Canadian Arctic and Norwegian Sea](#)'.
- **Korean Register** – has released two updates:
 - '[PPR 13 - News Flash](#)'
 - '[Notice for Establishment to the KR Technical Rules \(Rules for the Classification of Steel Ships Pt 1, Guidance for Offshore Support Vessel\(OSV\)\)](#)'.
- **ClassNK** – has released an update entitled '[TEC-1373 The ratification of the Hong Kong Convention by Cyprus](#)'.

Recent P&I Club Guidance

- **The American Club** – has released an update entitled '[Loss Prevention: Ship Shape - Fitness Videos](#)'.
- **Gard** – has released an update entitled '[Heavy weather risks in and leaving port](#)'.
- **Skuld** – has released three updates:
 - '[US and Iranian tensions: Charterparty implications](#)'
 - '[Rights of Recourse](#)'
 - '[INSIGHT: Venezuela Sanctions](#)'.
- **UK P&I** – has released an update entitled '[Carriage of Soybean Cargoes](#)'.
- **West** – has released an update entitled '[Venezuelan sanctions - OFAC issues various new General Licenses](#)'.

Other Regulations and Guidance in the News

- **ReCAAP** – has issued its [weekly piracy report](#).
- **BIMCO** – has published an update entitled '[Mitigating the threat of GNSS jamming and spoofing](#)'.
- **ICS** – has released four updates:
 - '[Cyber security at sea: Why maritime must move to close the digital gap](#)'
 - '[Marking 20 years of the Maritime Labour Convention](#)'
 - '[Copper at the core: Building a sustainable future](#)'
 - '[Indian National Shipowners' Association joins the International Chamber of Shipping](#)'.
- **EMSA** – has published an update entitled '[New Study on biodiesel-bunker fuel blends as marine pollutants](#)'.
- **IMO** – has released two updates:
 - '[Global treaty on fishing vessel safety to enter into force in 2027](#)'
 - '[MLC at 20: ILO and IMO reaffirm commitment to decent work at sea](#)'.

Recent Accident Reports

- **US** – The NTSB has released an [investigation report](#) into the fire on board the fishing vessel 'Spicy Lady' in Chatham Strait, Alaska on 6th March 2025. The ship was fishing when a fire started in the accommodation area. The crew were unable to extinguish it, and evacuated onto a nearby vessel. No pollution was reported, and one crew member suffered minor injuries. The vessel was declared a constructive total loss. The investigation did not determine a probable cause for the fire.

Recent IMO Circulars

- **LEG 113/4(a)/1 – 25/02/2026** – Fair Treatment of Seafarers.
- **Circular Letter No.5135 – 25/02/2026** – Communication from the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua.
- **LEG 113/7/1 – 25/02/2026** – Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships.
- **PPR 13/INF.1 – 25/02/2026** – List of Participants.
- **MEPC 84/6/14 – 25/02/2026** – Energy Efficiency of Ships.
- **LEG 113/4(a)/2 – 25/02/2026** – Fair Treatment of Seafarers.
- **Circular Letter No.5082 – 25/02/2026** – Nomination of Candidates: Master's Programmes at the IMO International Maritime Law Institute, Malta, October 2026 to July 2027.
- **FAL50/11 – 25/02/2026** – Revised Guidelines for the Prevention and Suppression of the Smuggling of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals on Ships Engaged in International Maritime Trade.
- **MEPC 84/4/8 – 24/02/2026** – Harmful Aquatic Organisms in Ballast Water.
- **MSC 111/19/3 – 24/02/2026** – Work Programme.

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 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)

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