

Shipping Regulations and Guidance

Week 10, 2026 – Friday 6th March
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Flag State Regulations and Guidance Update

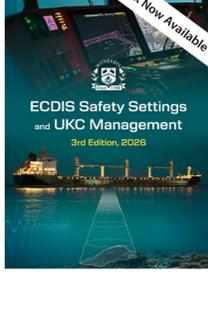
- Bahamas** – has released two updates:
 - [‘TA003 – Strait of Hormuz, Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea Military Operations’](#)
 - [‘TA004 – IMO Procedures for Port State Control 2025’](#).
- Cyprus** – has released an update entitled [‘Circular 06-2026 Safety and security of vessels under Cyprus Flag calling or approaching ports/countries where armed/civil conflicts take place’](#).
- Liberia** – has released two updates:
 - [‘Marine Security Advisory – 09/2023-Rev.13 - Security Situation in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and North Arabian Sea’](#)
 - [‘Marine Security Advisory – 03/2025/Rev.4 - Security situation in the Arabian Gulf, Straits of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman and North Arabian Sea \(Supersedes Marine Security Advisory 03/2025/Rev.3\)’](#).
- Malta** – has released an update entitled [‘MS Notice 205 - Escalating security situation in the Persian Gulf, Straits of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman’](#).
- Norway** – has released an update entitled [‘Acceptance of service providers carrying out maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, etc. of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear’](#).
- Panama** – has released three updates:
 - [‘MMN-05/2026 Vessel transit near Iranian Territorial Waters’](#)
 - [‘MMN-06/2026 Key Detainable Deficiencies for Panama-flagged Vessels under China MSA Port State Control \(PSC\) Inspections - 2025’](#)
 - [‘MMN-07/2026 Key Detainable Deficiencies for Panama-flagged Vessels under Black Sea MOU Port State Control \(PSC\) Inspections - 2025’](#).
- UK** – has released an update entitled [‘Draft MGN 711 \(M\) The Merchant Shipping \(Port State Control\) Regulations 2026’](#).
- Singapore** – has released two updates:
 - [‘Circular No. 3 of 2026 - Revalidation of Certificates Issued under the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 \(STCW 1978\), as Amended by Singapore’](#)
 - [‘Port Marine Circular No 04 of 2026 - Updated Measures for Use of e-Vaporisers in Singapore from 03 March 2026’](#).

New from Witherbys

Out February 2026

Due March 2026

Due March 2026



COLREG, 2026 Edition -
Convention on the
International
Regulations for
Preventing Collisions
at Sea, 1972

ECDIS Safety Settings
and UKC Management -
3rd Edition, 2026

Guidelines on the
Application of the ILO
Maritime Labour
Convention - Fifth
Edition

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Navigation and Security News

- [‘JMJC Weekly Dashboard for the Middle East’ \(UKMTO\)](#)
- [‘ITF-JNG: High Risk Area designation in the Strait of Hormuz’ \(Safety4Sea\)](#)
- [‘Panamanian Cargo Ship Dura Bulk Sinks Off Laayoune. All Crew Rescued In Major SAR Operation’ \(Marine Insight\)](#)
- [‘Canadian Arctic and Norwegian Sea ECAs enter into force’ \(Riviera\)](#)
- [‘EU unveils new maritime and ports strategies’ \(Splash 24/7\)](#)

Recent Class Society Guidance

- American Bureau of Shipping** – has released four updates:
 - [‘Container Securing Systems’](#)
 - [‘Liquefied Gas Carriers with Independent Tanks’](#)
 - [‘Habitability Notations’](#)
 - [‘Subsea Power Cables’](#).
- Indian Register** – has released four updates:
 - [‘Technical Circular No. 004/2026 Lessons learnt from Collision Incident’](#)
 - [‘Technical Circular No. 005/2026 Lessons learnt from Collision Incident’](#)
 - [‘Technical Circular No. 006/2026 Incidents & Casualties associated with the damage to Z-drive propulsion system’](#)
 - [‘Technical Circular No. 007/2026 USCG - Performance-Driven Certificate of Compliance \(COC\) Examination Schedule’](#).
- Korean Register** – has released two updates:
 - [‘Establishment of the “Numerical Calculation Guidelines for the Determination of the Attained EEDI”’](#)
 - [‘Method for verifying the charge of cylinders of fixed CO2 fire-extinguishing system’](#).
- Lloyd’s Register** – has released an update entitled [‘04/2026: Revised IMO measures for entering enclosed spaces aboard ships’](#).
- 12th Session of the IMO Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping Subcommittee**
 - [BIMCO](#)
 - [DNV](#)
 - [INTERCARGO](#)
 - [Lloyd’s Register](#).

Recent P&I Club Guidance

- Britannia** – has released two updates:
 - [‘Conflict in Iran and Middle East Region’](#)
 - [‘Joint War Committee \(JWC\) Updates the Hull War, Piracy, Terrorism and Related Perils Listed Areas \(JWLA 033\)’](#).
- Gard** – has released an update entitled [‘The Middle East conflict: Contractual and insurance implications’](#).
- Japan P&I** – has released two updates:
 - [‘Deteriorating Situation in Iran’](#)
 - [‘Conflicts in the Middle East’](#).
- Skuld** – has released two updates:
 - [‘Maritime security update: Gulf Region / Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea’](#)
 - [‘US/Israeli military intervention in Iran: Charterparty implications’](#).

- The American Club** – has released an update entitled [‘Good Catch Update: Bank Suction Gets Ugly - Bank Suction Damage’](#).
- The Swedish Club** – has released an update entitled [‘War in the Middle East: Contractual Considerations for Shipping’](#).

- UK P&I** – has released two updates:
 - [‘Crew Health Advice: BMI at Sea - Why Weight Matters’](#)
 - [‘Risk Focus: Ammonia Bunkering and Handling’](#).

- West** – has released an update entitled [‘Update: Current threat level in the Strait of Hormuz’](#).

- Cancellation of War Risk Cover**
 - [Britannia P&I](#)
 - [Gard](#)
 - [Japan P&I](#)
 - [London P&I Club](#)
 - [Shipowners’ Club](#)
 - [Skuld](#)
 - [Steamship Mutual](#)
 - [The American Club](#)
 - [The Swedish Club](#)
 - [UK P&I](#)
 - [West](#).

Other Regulations and Guidance in the News

- ReCAAP** – has issued its [weekly piracy report](#).
- IMO** – has published an update entitled [‘Statement on the Strait of Hormuz’](#).
- UK Chamber of Shipping** – has published an update entitled [‘UK CoS Statement Regarding Security in the Middle East’](#).
- International Chamber of Shipping** – has published an update entitled [‘Statement on the situation in the Strait of Hormuz’](#).
- BIMCO** – has published an update entitled [‘Remember the BIMCO War Risks Clauses’](#).
- International Institute of Marine Surveying** – has published an update entitled [‘Black Sea MoU publishes preliminary results of the CIC on ballast water management’](#).
- Marine Traffic** – has published an update entitled [‘Port State Control Monthly Update - January 2026’](#).

Recent Accident Reports

- Malta** – The MSIU has released an [investigation report](#) into the flooding on board the bulk carrier ‘Zephyr Venture’ at Guayaquil outer anchorage, Ecuador on 27th February 2025. Following a leak caused by corrosion, various repairs and maintenance were conducted on and around the ship’s port sea-chest strainer housing. Shortly after follow-up tasks were performed, the engine room high level bilge alarms sounded. By the time the open sea chest valve was closed, the engine room had flooded extensively. The investigation concluded that the flooding resulted from the port side sea chest valve being open at the same time as the strainer housing, but did not determine the cause for the situation.

Recent IMO Circulars

- MEPC 84/7/29 – 05/03/2026** – Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships.
- MEPC 84/9/1 – 05/03/2026** – Experience-building Phase for the Reduction of Underwater Radiated Noise from Shipping.
- MEPC 84/INF.27 – 04/03/2026** – Identification and Protection of Special Areas, ECAs and PSSAs.
- MEPC 84/6/21 – 04/03/2026** – Energy Efficiency of Ships.
- MEPC 84/INF.32 – 04/03/2026** – Harmful Aquatic Organisms in Ballast Water.
- PMP.7/Circ.91 – 03/03/2026** – Protocol of 1997 to Amend the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as Modified by the Protocol of 1978 Relating Thereto Amendments to MARPOL Annex VI Adopted by Resolution MEPC.392(82).
- Circular Letter No.5140 – 03/03/2026** – Communication from the Government of the Russian Federation regarding the issuance of electronic ship certificates.
- MEPC 84/8 – 02/03/2026** – Follow-up Work Emanating from the Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from 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 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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