

Shipping Regulations and Guidance

Week 11, 2026 – Friday 13th March
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Flag State Regulations and Guidance Update

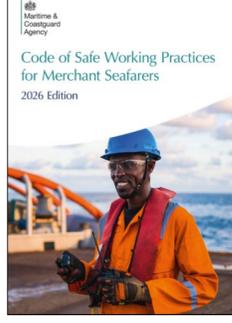
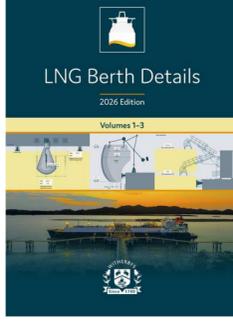
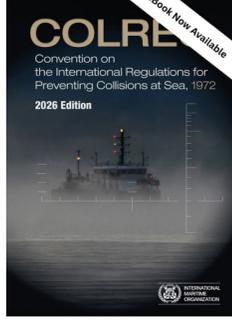
- **Cyprus** – has released an update entitled '[Circular 08-2026 Calculation of the Global Share for the Owners of Foreign Ships, Charterers and Ship Managers applicable for the fiscal year 2026](#)'.
- **Liberia** – has released two updates:
 - '[Marine Advisory 04/2026 - Prevention and Elimination of Harassment and Bullying onboard Ships](#)'
 - '[INS-003 - National Safety Requirements for Miscellaneous and Non-SOLAS Vessels](#)'.
- **Panama** – has released two updates:
 - '[Panama Oil Record Book and Emissions \(Amendments and Guidelines\)](#)'
 - '[Ballast Water Management Convention 2004, Panama Policy](#)'.
- **UK** – has released two updates:
 - '[MGN 708\(M\) Guidance on the merchant shipping \(international safety management \(ISM\) code\) regulations 2026](#)'
 - '[MGN 715 \(M+F\) recommended best practice for respectful and safe operation](#)'.

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

LNG Berth Details -
2026 Edition

Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seafarers - 2026 Edition

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Navigation and Security News

- '[LPG leak temporarily halts Puerto Quetzal tanker operations](#)' (Riviera)
- '[Scientists warn of extremely powerful upcoming El Niño](#)' (Safety4Sea)
- '[Strike Paralyzes Shipping at Antwerp and Other Belgian Ports](#)' (The Maritime Executive)
- '[US seizes cocaine found inside 'parasitic device' on ship hull](#)' (TradeWinds)

Recent Class Society Guidance

- **DNV** – has released an update entitled '[Alternative certification process for control and monitoring systems](#)'.
- **Indian Register** – has released an update entitled '[Technical Circular No.008/2026: Elevation of Ship Security Level due to Military Operation in the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Strait of Hormuz and Arabian Sea](#)'.
- **Korean Register** – has released an update entitled '[HTW 12 - News Flash](#)'.
- **Lloyd's Register** – has released an update entitled '[Strait restrictions impact tanker markets and evolve oil trade flows](#)'.

Recent P&I Club Guidance

- **International Group of P&I Clubs** – has released an update entitled '[Iran/Persian Gulf update on cover](#)'.
- **Japan P&I** – has released four updates:
 - '[Akashi Kaikyo Traffic Route and its vicinity in 2026 - Navigation safety measures during the fishing season](#)'
 - '[Conflicts in the Middle East - No.3](#)'
 - '[China - Strengthening the Prevention of Collisions between Merchant Ships and Fishing Vessels in Coastal Waters of China](#)'
 - '[Reinstatement of War Risks Cover for the "Special Cover for Charterers"](#)'.
- **NorthStandard** – has released five updates:
 - '[Crew to have appropriate visa when entering Brazil](#)'
 - '[Increase in maritime security level following escalation of violence in Mexico](#)'
 - '[Supporting Fasting Crew During the Ramadan Season: Practical Considerations](#)'
 - '[China - Correspondents' advice on maritime-related risks](#)'
 - '[Impacts of Heavy Rains in Brazil - including damage, losses, and liquefaction risks](#)'.
- **Skuld** – has released an update entitled '[Skuld's experiences on biofuels](#)'.
- **The American Club** – has released an update entitled '[Circular No. 06/26 - Limited Reinstatement of War Risks Cover - Persian/Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman](#)'.

Other Regulations and Guidance in the News

- **ReCAAP** – has issued its [weekly piracy report](#).
- **OCIMF** – has published an update entitled '[INTERTANKO and OCIMF issue joint statement](#)'.
- **INTERCARGO** – has published an update entitled '[Advice for Members regarding situation in Strait of Hormuz and Middle East](#)'.
- **BIMCO** – has published an update entitled '[HTW 12: IMO advances seafarer training and launches new fatigue management initiative](#)'.

Recent Accident Reports

- **UK** – The MAIB has released an [investigation report](#) into the loss of propulsion experienced by the passenger vessel 'Spirit of Discovery' in heavy weather in the Bay of Biscay, which resulted in more than 100 injuries and one fatality. On 4th November 2023, the ship was crossing the Bay of Biscay from Spain to England when it lost propulsion due to heavy rolling and pitching in very high seas. During the time it took for the ship to abate and the ship to regain its normal seagoing, over 100 elderly passengers were injured, one fatally. The investigation identified several operational failures, including lack of consideration of the effects of the weather on elderly passengers as part of the passage planning process, failure to challenge the decision to make the crossing in adverse weather, insufficient furniture-securing arrangements and failure to implement the mass casualty incident plan.

Recent IMO Circulars

- **HTW 12/INF.1 – 12/03/2026** – List of Participants.
- **ISWG-GHG 21/3/4 – 11/03/2026** – Further Consideration of the Development of the IMO Life Cycle GHG Assessment (LCA) Framework.
- **ISWG-GHG 21/2/2 – 11/03/2026** – Development of New and/or Revision of Existing Guidelines, Provisions, Guidance and Other Documents, as Appropriate, for Supporting the Uniform and Effective Implementation of the IMO Net-zero Framework.
- **MEPC 84/12/3 – 11/03/2026** – Identification and Protection of Special Areas, ECAs and PSSAs.
- **NCSR 13/7/1 – 11/03/2026** – Development of Global Maritime SAR Services, Including Harmonization of Maritime and Aeronautical Procedures and Amendments to the IAMSAR Manual.
- **MEPC 84/8/2 – 11/03/2026** – Follow-up Work Emanating from the Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships.
- **Circular Letter No.5132 – 11/03/2026** – International Day for Women in Maritime 2026 and the Gender Equality Award Ceremony (18 May 2026).
- **MEPC 84/11/2 – 11/03/2026** – Reports of Other Sub-committees.
- **LC/SG 49/J/1 – 11/03/2026** – Provisional List of Participants.
- **TC 76/1/1 – 09/03/2026** – Adoption of the Agenda.

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
- 23-27 November – Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC)
- 14-18 December – Maritime Safety Committee (MSC)



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