

## Shipping Regulations and Guidance

Week 12, 2026 – Friday 20th March  
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### Flag State Regulations and Guidance Update

- Bahamas** – has released four updates:
  - '[IN027 – Crew Accommodation Guidance](#)'
  - '[MN031 – Maritime Labour Convention 2006](#)'
  - '[MN039 – Crew Accommodation Standards](#)'
  - '[TA003 – Strait of Hormuz, Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea Military Operations](#)'.
- Cyprus** – has released an update entitled '[Circular 9/2026 Qualified medical doctor on board ships flying the Cyprus Flag](#)'.
- Liberia** – has released two updates:
  - '[Marine Advisory 05/2026 - Guidelines on Fair Treatment of Seafarers Detained in Connection with Alleged Crimes](#)'.
  - '[IMO HTW 12 Meeting Summary](#)'.
- Panama** – has released an update entitled '[MMN-08/2026 Reminder on Mandatory Compliance and Flag State Reporting Requirements](#)'.
- UK** – has released three updates:
  - '[MIN 732 \(M+F\) Guidance for shipowners, fishing vessel owners, seafarers and fishers affected by the conflict in the Middle East](#)'
  - '[MGN 539 \(M\) Amendment 4 carriage of the code of safe working practices](#)'
  - '[MIN 688 \(M\) Amendment 4 code of safe working practices: 2026 edition](#)'.

### New from Witherbys

Out March 2026

Due March 2026

Due April 2026



Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seafarers - 2026 Edition

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LNG Berth Details - 2026 Edition

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Guidelines for Ballast Tank Coating Systems and Surface Preparation - 2026 Edition

Pre-order Here

### Navigation and Security News

- '[JMJC Weekly Dashboard for the Middle East](#)' (*UKMTO*)
- '[Researchers Identify Vulnerability That May Allow Attackers to Gain Control of Ship's Engine, Navigation, and Power Systems](#)' (*Maritime Fairtrade*)
- '[Two Weeks After Explosion 'Arctic Metagaz' Drifts Back Into Libyan Waters Amid Continued Fears of Explosion and Environmental Disaster](#)' (*gCaptain*)
- '[Naval escorts could make tankers a target for Iran, warns UN maritime chief](#)' (*Sky News*)
- '[Projectile hits vessel off UAE, near Hormuz Strait, UK maritime agency](#)' (*Arab News*)

### Recent Class Society Guidance

- American Bureau of Shipping** – has released three updates:
  - '[MEPC 81](#)'
  - '[MEPC 82](#)'
  - '[MEPC 83](#)'.
- DNV** – has released three updates:
  - '[Post-fire ship hull structure and material assessment](#)'
  - '[New Regulations for Newbuilding Speed Trials Enter Into Force on 1 May 2026](#)'
  - '[Clarifications on blackout recovery requirements for DP notation closed bus-ties qualifiers](#)'.
- Korean Register** – has released an update entitled '[Establishment of the "Guidelines for Hybrid Power Systems"](#)'.
- Lloyd's Register** – has released an update entitled '[New report warns shipping must master data to remain competitive](#)'.
- Ship Systems and Equipment Sub-committee 12th (SSE 12) – Summary Reports:**
  - [American Bureau of Shipping](#)
  - [Bureau Veritas](#)
  - [DNV](#)
  - [Lloyd's Register](#)

### Recent P&I Club Guidance

- Britannia** – has released an update entitled '[Kiveli v Afina 1: Head on or Crossing Encounter?](#)'.
- Japan P&I** – has released three updates:
  - '[Conflicts in the Middle East – No.6](#)'
  - '[US and Canada – Flighted Spongy Moth Complex – 2026 Flying Season Starts](#)'
  - '[Akashi Kaikyo Traffic Route and its vicinity in 2026 – Navigation safety measures lifted](#)'.
- Gard** – has released two updates:
  - '[Scrubber risks: Lessons from six years of claims](#)'
  - '[When draft survey prevails: Brazilian shortage claims after the 'SEA HONEST' judgment](#)'.
- NorthStandard** – has released three updates:
  - '[Brazil approaches 100 Mpx cases in 2026](#)'
  - '[Port of Santos updates operational drafts](#)'
  - '[Ballast Water Requirements in Brazil - updates](#)'.
- The Swedish Club** – has released an update entitled '[Escalation of Tensions in the Middle East and Implications on Seafarer Safety](#)'.
- The American Club** – has released an update entitled '[Loss Prevention: Ship Shape - The Right Way to Lift Onboard](#)'.

### Other Regulations and Guidance in the News

- ReCAAP** – has issued its [weekly piracy report](#).
- International Chamber of Shipping** – has published an update entitled '[Statement from the International Chamber of Shipping at the International Maritime Organization Extraordinary Council Meeting](#)'.
- Tokyo MOU** – has published an update entitled '[Preliminary results of the CIC on Ballast Water Management, 2004](#)'.
- BIMCO** – has published an update entitled '[BIMCO to establish Biofouling Management Task Force](#)'.
- INTERCARGO** – has published an update entitled '[Advice for Members regarding situation in Strait of Hormuz and Middle East](#)'.
- ILO** – has published an update entitled '[Shipowners can now take a simple, powerful step to help protect ship recycling workers](#)'.
- UK Chamber of Shipping** – has published an update entitled '[UK Chamber of Shipping Statement Regarding Security in the Middle East](#)'.
- International Institute of Marine Surveying** – has published an update entitled
  - '[IMO Ship Systems and Equipment \(SSE\) 12 summary report](#)'
  - '[New ISO standard for in-water hull cleaning published](#)'
  - '[IMPA warns of risks of deregulation in maritime pilotage](#)'.

### Recent Accident Reports

- Marshall Islands** – The RMIMA has released an [investigation report](#) into the fatal accident on board the cargo ship 'Shaman Wisdom' in the North Pacific Ocean on 5th June 2024. Two crew members were assigned to select a steel plate for work on the deck stairs that day. As the first crew member loosened the nut holding the retaining bar in place, the plates suddenly tipped over/the bar suddenly came free, pinning the second crew member's head between the plates and the opposite wall. The investigation identified several operational failures and contributing factors, including seafarer documentation deficiencies, poor storage rack design, and lack of risk assessment.
- Malta** – The MSIU has released an [investigation report](#) into the explosion on board the container ship 'CMA CGM Shanghai' in Singapore on 15th March 2025. The explosion occurred during berthing operations and originated from the aft section of the accommodation block. The investigation found that probable cause of the explosion was one of the starting air valves on the cylinder head, which had remained partially open.
- Singapore** – The TSIB has released an [investigation report](#) into the fatal accident on board the offshore supply vessel 'Anahita' west of Soyo, Angola on 14th May 2025. The incident occurred during a backloading operation while the ship was operating under dynamic positioning. The operation involved the handling and stacking of casing joints on the aft deck. During the final lift, the casing joints landed on top of the previously stacked casing bundles, which had not been properly secured. As a result of prevailing sea swells, which caused rolling motion on board, the casing joints moved on deck, trapping two crew members underneath a casing joint. One crew member sustained fatal injuries, and the other sustained serious injuries.

### Recent IMO Circulars

- Circular Letter No.5156 – 19/03/2026** – Communication from Ukraine.
- MSC 111/15/2 – 19/03/2026** – Navigation, Communication and Search and Rescue.
- MSC 111/4/3 – 19/03/2026** – Goal-Based New Ship Construction Standards.
- MSC 111/14/10 – 19/03/2026** – Carriage of Cargoes and Containers.
- MSC 111/14/9 – 19/03/2026** – Carriage of Cargoes and Containers, Report of the Eleventh Session of the Sub-Committee.
- MSC 111/14/7 – 19/03/2026** – Carriage of Cargoes and Containers.
- MSC 111/14/6 – 19/03/2026** – Carriage of Cargoes and Containers.
- MSC 111/15/3 – 19/03/2026** – Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue.
- MEPC 84/7/49 – 18/03/2026** – Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships.
- MSC 84/14/3 – 18/03/2026** – Work Programme of the Committee and Subsidiary Bodies.

### 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.

- 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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