

Shipping Regulations and Guidance

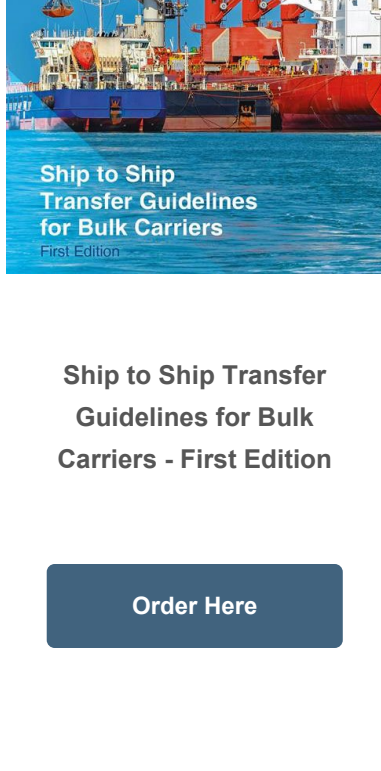
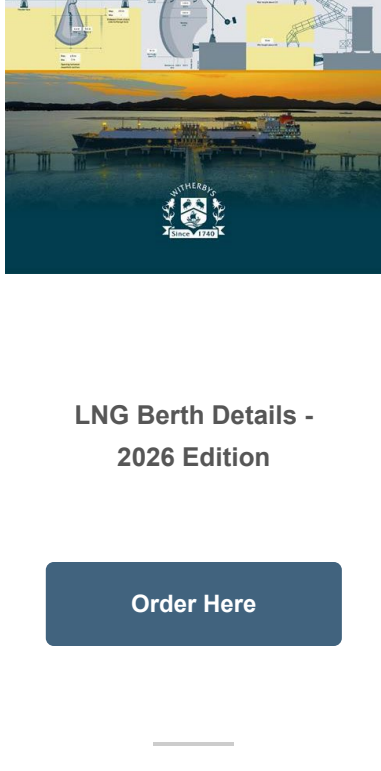
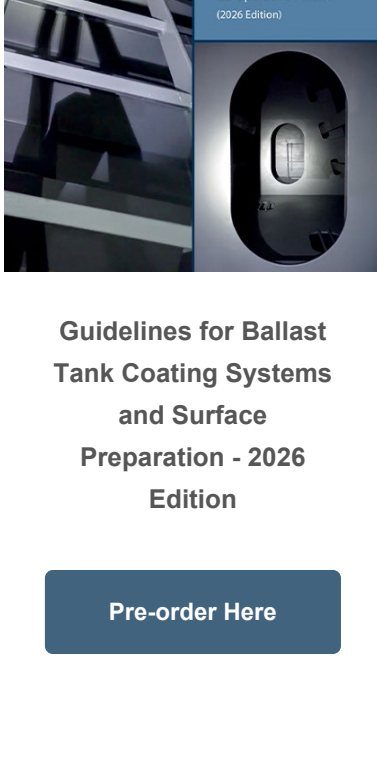
Week 14, 2026 – Friday 3rd April
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Flag State Regulations and Guidance Update

- Australia** – has released an update entitled '[Inspections report 2025](#)'.
- Bahamas** – has released an update entitled '[TA26-05 – Revised Merchant Shipping Act](#)'.
- Bermuda** – has released an update entitled '[Guidance Notice 2026-03- STCW Short Courses](#)'.
- Canada** – has released an update entitled '[Bulletin 01/2026 Mandatory fatigue management training \(Revised\)](#)'.
- Cyprus** – has released three updates:
 - '[Circular 10/2026 International Medical Guide for Seafarers and Fishers](#)'
 - '[Circular 11/2026 Fleet Performance on Port State Control for 2023-2025](#)'
 - '[Circular 12/2026 The Merchant Shipping \(Medical Examination of Seafarers and Issue of Certificates\) \(List of Approved Doctors\) Notification of 2026 \(P.I. 153/2026\)](#)'.
- Liberia** – has released two updates:
 - '[Marine Advisory: 06/2026 – China MSA "Guidelines on Shipping Companies' Fulfillment of Primary Responsibility for Work Safety \(Version 1.0\)"](#)'
 - '[Marine Advisory: 24/2025/Rev.1 - Issuance, Closure, and Extension of Statutory Dispensations issued to Liberian Flagged Vessels \(Supersedes: Marine Advisory 24/2025\)](#)'.
- Marshall Islands** – has released two updates:
 - '[Proof of Liability Insurance](#)'
 - '[Prevention of Collisions Between Merchant Vessels and Fishing Vessels in Coastal Waters of China](#)'.
- Panama** – has released four updates:
 - '[Welcome Guidance and Post Registration Requirements](#)'
 - '[Optional and Voluntary System for Electronic Books or Electronic Record Books on board Panamanian Flagged Vessels](#)'
 - '[Samples of certificates and seafarers' documentation implemented and approved by the Panama Maritime Authority](#)'.
 - '[Authorized service providers for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear](#)'.
- Singapore** – has released an update entitled '[Shipping Circular No. 4 of 2026 - Safety Reminder: Collision Prevention Between Merchant Vessels and Fishing Vessels in China's Coastal Waters](#)'.
- UK** – has released an update entitled '[MIN 732 \(M+F\) Guidance for shipowners, fishing vessel owners, seafarers and fishers affected by the conflict in the Middle East](#)'.

New from Witherbys

<i>Out March 2026</i>	<i>Out March 2026</i>	<i>Print Due April 2026</i>
		
Ship to Ship Transfer Guidelines for Bulk Carriers - First Edition	LNG Berth Details - 2026 Edition	Guidelines for Ballast Tank Coating Systems and Surface Preparation - 2026 Edition
Order Here	Order Here	Pre-order Here

Navigation and Security News

- '[JMJC Weekly Dashboard for the Middle East](#)' (*UKMTO*)
- '[Hormuz now a pay to pass corridor](#)' (*Splash 24/7*)
- '[Suez Canal introduces new IMO-compliant hazardous waste services](#)' (*Safety4Sea*)

Recent Class Society Guidance

- American Bureau of Shipping** – has released an update entitled '[Biofouling Management Plans](#)'.
- Bureau Veritas** – has released two updates:
 - '[NR584 - Azimuth thrusters in ice for polar class ships and icebreakers](#)'
 - '[NR266 - Requirements for survey of materials and equipment for the classification of ships and offshore units](#)'.
- DNV** – has released an update entitled '[Global regulatory framework for fishing vessels safety in force from 24 February 2027](#)'.
- Lloyd's Register** – has released two updates:
 - '[Class News 06/2026: UK ETS extends to domestic maritime sector](#)'
 - '[Class News 07/2026: SOLAS amendments - Fire Safety Requirements for ro-ro Passenger Ships](#)'.
- IMO Facilitation Committee (FAL 50)**
 - [Bureau Veritas](#)
 - [DNV](#)
 - [Lloyd's Register](#).

Recent P&I Club Guidance

- Britannia** – has released two updates:
 - '[Loss Prevention Data Analysis: Managing Illicit Maritime Risks - Drug Smuggling and Slowaways](#)'
 - '[Fishery Farms around the Chinese Coast](#)'.
- Gard** – has released an update entitled '[Supporting seafarers in the Persian Gulf](#)'.

Other Regulations and Guidance in the News

- IMO** – has published an overview of [FAL 50](#).
- ReCAAP** – has issued its [weekly piracy report](#).
- ICS** – has published an update entitled '[Arctic shipping: opportunity, constraints, and the long view](#)'.
- BIMCO** – has published an update entitled '[BIMCO Cyber Security Survey](#)'.
- IACS** – has published two updates
 - '[IACS 2025 Annual Review highlights the role of class in driving progress on maritime safety and innovation](#)'
 - '[IACS Publishes Recommendation 197 on hull structural steels up to 100mm thickness](#)'.
- International Institute of Marine Surveying** – has released two updates:
 - '[Safety guidelines for wind-assisted ships issued by IITF](#)'
 - '[Lithium-ion Battery Fires: What We Know So Far – edition 2 published](#)'.
- Marine Traffic** – has published an update entitled '[Port State Control Monthly Update - February 2026](#)'.
- UK MAIB** – has published an update entitled '[Current Investigations](#)'.

Recent IMO Circulars

- NCSR 13/17 – 01/04/2026** – Any Other Business.
- MSC 111/21 – 01/04/2026** – Any Other Business.
- NCSR 13/INF.17 – 01/04/2026** – Routing Measures and Ship Reporting Systems.
- MSC 111/INF.13 – 01/04/2026** – Any Other Business.
- Circular Letter No.5159 – 26/03/2026** – Communication from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- MSC 111/INF.17 – 01/04/2026** – Development of a Goal-Based Instrument for Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS).
- TC 76/7 – 31/03/2026** – Integration of IMSAS Audit Outcomes into Technical Cooperation Activities and Projects.
- TC 76/8 – 31/03/2026** – Capacity Development: Empowering All Women and the Promotion of Diversity, Equality, Equity and Inclusion (DEEI) in the Maritime Sector.
- NCSR 13/3/6 – 31/03/2026** – Routing Measures and Ship Reporting Systems.
- Circular Letter No.5161 – 31/03/2026** – Communication from the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- NCSR 13/INF.9 – 31/03/2026** – Routing Measures and Ship Reporting Systems.

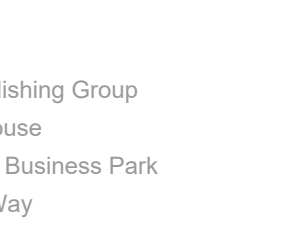
List of Amendments Expected to Enter into Force This Year and in the Coming Years

[PDF Download](#)

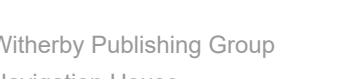
A Guide to What's Happening at the IMO

The IMO has released the programme for 2026. Please see the IMO's '[Meeting Summaries](#)' webpage for more information.

- 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 (NSCR)
- 06-10 July – IMO Council
- 20-24 July – Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments (Illi)
- 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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