

Shipping Regulations and Guidance

Week 16, 2026 – Friday 17th April
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Flag State Regulations and Guidance Update

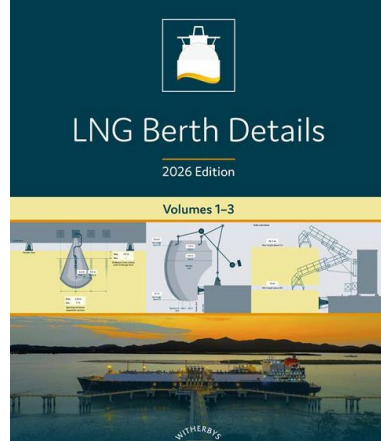
- Australia** – has released an update entitled '[Radiocommunications Licence Conditions \(Maritime Ship Licence\) Determination 2025](#)'.
- Canada** – has released two updates:
 - [Requirements for passenger submersibles operating in Canadian waters - SSB No.: 03/2026](#)
 - [Protecting the North Atlantic right whale: speed restriction measures in the Gulf of St. Lawrence - SSB No.: 02/2026](#)
- Isle of Man** – has released an update entitled '[Technical Advisory Notice 009-23 \(Rev. 2\) Shipboard Lifting Appliances](#)'.
- Liberia** – has released three updates:
 - [Marine Security Bulletin - 07/2026 U.S. Naval Blockade of all Iranian Ports and Coastal Areas](#)
 - [Marine Operations Note: 01/2026 Update to the Seafarers Electronic Application System \(SEA System\) and Introduction of Crew360](#)
 - [Marine Advisory: 07/2026 Prevention of Electrocutation Casualties – Safe Use of Portable Electrical Equipment, Electrical Isolation, and Compliance with Safety Management System Requirements](#)
- Panama** – has released five updates:
 - [MMN-09/2026 Navigational Notice for Fishing Areas and China Coastal Waters](#)
 - [MMN-10/2026 Flag State Inspectors Cancelled Due to Non-participation in the Annual Seminar](#)
 - [Circular 235 Adoption and regulation of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended \(1978 STCW Convention, as amended\) and its STCW Code](#)
 - [Circular 195 Long-Range Identification and Tracking of Ships \(LRIT\)](#)
 - [Circular 408 Application and interpretation of Chapter II-1/Reg. 3-13, MSC.1/Circ.1662 and MSC.1/Circ.1663](#)
- UK** – has released three updates:
 - [MIN 732 \(M+F\) Amendment 1 Guidance for shipowners, fishing vessel owners, seafarers and fishers affected by the conflict in the Middle East](#)
 - [MGN 544 Amendment 1 \(M+F\) Means of recovery of persons from the water by ships and boats - plans, procedures and acceptance of recovery equipment](#)
 - [MGN 645 \(M\) Amendment 1 load line length – policy clarification: hull form cut-outs, extensions and steps](#)

New from Witherbys

Out March 2026

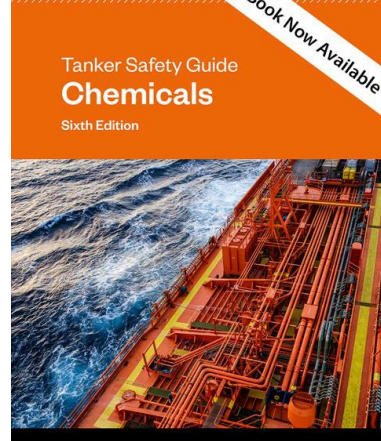
Out April 2026

Due May 2026



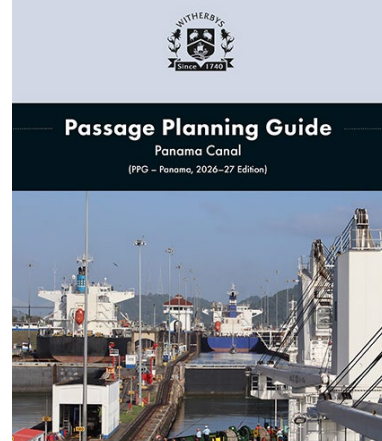
LNG Berth Details - 2026 Edition

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Tanker Safety Guide (Chemicals) – Sixth Edition

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Passage Planning Guide: Panama Canal – (PPG – Panama, 2026–27 Edition)

Pre-order Here

Navigation and Security News

- [JMJC Weekly Dashboard for the Middle East](#) (UKMTO)
- ["Silver tsunami" drives surge in shipping claims](#) (Splash 24/7)
- [Iran threatens wider blockade](#) (Splash 24/7)
- [HNS Convention moves closer to entry into force](#) (Safety4Sea)
- [Port of Antwerp cleanup efforts continue following oil spill](#) (Safety4Sea)

Recent Class Society Guidance

- American Bureau of Shipping** – has released an update entitled '[LPG Fueled Vessels](#)'.
- Bureau Veritas** – has released an update entitled '[Bureau Veritas releases new report on EU rules impact to shipowners](#)'.
- ClassNK** – has released an update entitled '[RESOLUTION MSC.572\(110\) and MSC.576\(110\) - New Requirements for Pilot Transfer Arrangements](#)'.
- DNV** – has released two updates:
 - [Revised interpretation of requirements to Permanent Means of Access \(PMA\)](#)
 - [Methane in shipping: LNG-fuelled ships and the switch to low-GHG methane](#)
- Lloyd's Register** – has released an update entitled '[Fuel for thought: LNG for Cruise](#)'.

Recent P&I Club Guidance

- Britannia** – has released three updates:
 - [Measures Enforced in Taiwan to Prevent Damage to Critical Undersea Infrastructure](#)
 - [Security Update – Africa Risk Compliance Ltd \(ARC\) – US-Israel Conflict with Iran](#)
 - [General Understanding of Dangerous Goods in Containers](#)
- Gard** – has released an update entitled '[Harnessing the giants: safer windmill blade logistics](#)'.
- Japan P&I Club** – has released an update entitled '[IMB piracy and armed robbery report for January – March 2026](#)'.
- NorthStandard** – has released five updates:
 - [No Scrubs: Countries and Ports where Restrictions on EGCS Discharges apply](#)
 - [Carbon Contribution for maritime operators in Gabon: what you need to know](#)
 - [New biofouling regulations in Brazil](#)
 - [BIMCO's new film "Fair Seas" calls for fair treatment and stronger protection for seafarers](#)
 - [Sailors' Society Cadet Report 2025/26](#)
- The Swedish Club** – has released an update entitled '[The Swedish Club launches new guide to help seafarers manage stress in high-risk areas](#)'.
- UK P&I** – has released two updates:
 - [GNSS Disruption at Sea: What Bridge Teams Need to Know](#)
 - [Risk Focus: Safe Carriage of Vehicle Cargoes](#)
- West** – has released three updates:
 - [VPS identifies Singapore bunker quality concerns](#)
 - [Bangladesh: Fuel crisis impacting port operations](#)
 - [Cape Town Agreement](#)

Other Regulations and Guidance in the News

- ReCAAP** – has issued its [weekly piracy report](#).
- OCIMF** – has released an update entitled '[Prolonged Disruption, Elevated Threat and the Safe Conduct of Maritime Operations](#)'.
- ICS** – has released an update entitled '[The HNS Convention](#)'.
- ICC** – has released an update entitled '[Lowest first-quarter maritime piracy and armed robbery figures since 1991, but vigilance remains essential](#)'.
- IMO** – has released an update entitled '[Hazardous cargo compensation regime moves to entry into force](#)'.

Recent Accident Reports

- Malta** – The MSIU has released an [investigation report](#) into the fatal accident on board the cruise ship 'MSC Seaside' South of Freeport, Bahamas on 4th April 2025. While working in the ship's waste recycling centre, a crewmember was fatally injured when he became trapped by the head in a hydraulic bale compactor. The investigation found that the safety switch of the compactor had been manually bypassed, resulting in its irregular activation while the loading door was still open.
- Cyprus** – The MAIC has released an [investigation report](#) into the fatal accident on board the bulk carrier 'Pagoda' in the port of Beira, Mozambique on 25th September 2025. A stevedore was fatally injured when he was buried under a pile of ore during loading operations. The investigation could not identify the precise cause of the accident due to insufficient evidence.

Recent IMO Circulars

- Circular Letter No.5168 – 16/04/2026** – Communication from the Government of Ukraine.
- NCSR 13/17/1 – 15/04/2026** – Any Other Business.
- NCSR 13/8 – 15/04/2026** – Development of Guidelines for EPIRB which Implement the Two-way Communication Service via the SAR/Galileo Return Link Service as a Complement to EPIRB Performance Standards (Resolution MSC.471(101)).
- NCSR 13/INF.13 – 15/04/2026** – Any Other Business.
- III 12/INF.6 – 15/04/2026** – Any Other Business.
- Circular Letter No.5166 – 15/04/2026** – Cruise Ship Visit to Celebrity Apex in the Port of Southampton, United Kingdom, on Saturday, 16 May 2026.
- TC 76/3/6 – 14/04/2026** – Technical Cooperation Planning and Reporting.
- ISWG-GHG 21/1/1 – 14/04/2026** – Adoption of the Agenda.
- NCSR 13/14 – 14/04/2026** – Updates to the LRIT System.
- FSA Studies – 13/04/2026** – List of FSA Studies Submitted to IMO to Date.

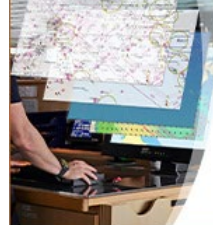
List of Amendments Expected to Enter into Force This Year and in the Coming Years

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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.

- 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 1976) 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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