SR&G

Shipping Regulations and Guidance

Week 18, 2026 – Friday 1st May
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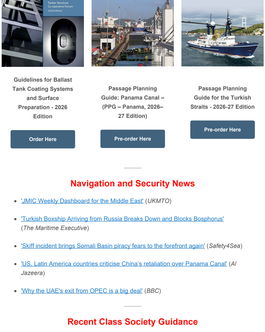
Flag State Regulations and Guidance Update

- **Cyprus –** has released an update entitled 'SIN 2/2026 New European Union restrictive measures in view of the gravity of the situation in Ukraine (20th package of restrictive measures)'.
- **Liberia –** has released three updates:
  - 'Marine Operations Note: 03/2026 - Certificates of Receipt of Application (CRA) and Verification'
  - 'Marine Security Bulletin: 09/2026 - Security incident in the Arabian Gulf'
  - 'Marine Operations Note: 04/2026 - Seafarers Verification Details'.
- **Norway –** has released an update entitled 'Guidance on electronic deck and engine-room log books on Norwegian ships and mobile offshore units'.
- **Panama –** has released two updates:
  - 'MMC-230 Ship Protection Measures to Pirates Attacks'
  - 'MMC-245 Armed Security Personnel on board Panama flagged vessels transiting High Risk Areas'.
- **Malta –** has released an update entitled 'MS Notice 127 Rev 3 - Guidelines for the ascertainment of seaworthiness of vessels being registered as Maltese ships'.
- **UK –** has released two updates:
  - 'MIN 734 (M+F) Welfare support for seafarers and fishers'
  - 'MIN 732 (M+F) amendment 2 guidance for shipowners, fishing vessel owners, seafarers and fishers affected by the conflict in the Middle East'.

New from Witherbys



Out April 2026

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

Order Here

Due May 2026

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

Pre-order Here

Due June 2026

Passage Planning Guide for the Turkish Straits - 2026-27 Edition

Pre-order Here

Navigation and Security News

- 'JMIC Weekly Dashboard for the Middle East' (*UKMTO*)
- 'Turkish Boatship Arriving from Russia Breaks Down and Blocks Bosphorus' (*The Maritime Executive*)
- 'Skiff incident brings Somali Basin piracy fears to the forefront again' (*Safety4Sea*)
- 'US, Latin America countries criticise China's retaliation over Panama Canal' (*Al Jazeera*).
- 'Why the UAE's exit from OPEC is a big deal' (*BBC*)

Recent Class Society Guidance

- **Bureau Veritas –** has released an update entitled 'Bureau Veritas calls for greater connectivity across value chains as AI reshapes global trade'.
- **Indian Register of Shipping –** has released an update entitled 'Technical Circular No. 01/02/026 Indian Flag Administration advisory and instructions on Safe Voyage Planning for General Cargo ships over 20 years of age and Operating between Mainland and A&N islands and within the A&N islands in Monsoon and Rough Weather Conditions - DGS Circular 58 of 2025'.
- **Lloyd's Register –** has released two updates:
  - 'Next-Generation Feeder Development: A Future-Ready Design Pathway'
  - 'MEPC 84 early expectations'.

Recent P&I Club Guidance

- **Britannia –** has released an update entitled 'Transport Canada – Protecting the North Atlantic Right Whale'.
- **NorthStandard –** has released four updates:
  - 'CINS Guidelines for shipping Lithium-ion cells and batteries in containers'
  - 'China Maritime Code 2026 – Key Changes and Considerations for Carriers'
  - 'China: Correspondents' advice on maritime-related risks'
  - 'Safety guidance for seafarers caught in missile/drone attacks'.
- **Skuld –** has released two updates:
  - 'Marine fuels contaminated with unwanted chemical compounds'
  - 'Key amendments to China's new Maritime Code'.
- **Gard –** has released an update entitled '02/2026 EU Sanctions: 20th Sanctions Package Against Russia'.
- **The American Club –** has released two updates:
  - 'Circular No. 07/26 - OFAC Issues Guidance on Sham Transactions and Sanctions Evasion'.
  - 'Circular No. 08/26 - OFAC Issues Guidance on the Sanctions Risk of Iranian "Tolls" and Dealing with Tehran Oil Refineries'.
- **The Shipowners' Club –** has released an update entitled 'A Pro-Active Approach: Data-Driven Safety and Behavioural Intelligence – The Next Evolution in Maritime Risk Management?'.
- **The Swedish Club –** has released two updates:
  - 'Practical safety guidance for seafarers exposed to missile and drone attacks'
  - 'Strait of Hormuz Toll Payments (OFAC FAQ 1249, 28 April 2026)'.
- **The London P&I Club –** has released an update entitled 'China - Fishery Farms updates'.

Other Regulations and Guidance in the News

- **ReCAAP –** has issued its weekly piracy report.
- **UK Chamber of Shipping –** has released an update entitled 'Horizon Scan: Building a Stronger Safety Culture in Shipping'.
- **International Chamber of Shipping –** has released two updates:
  - 'Scaling ship management in a more complex world'
  - 'Real intelligence – hiring to succeed in the face of AI'.
- **International Chamber of Shipping –** has released an update entitled 'IACS Participation at MSC 111'.
- **International Institute of Marine Surveying –** has released two updates:
  - 'Safety helmets: When standards fail stevedores and crews'
  - 'ITIC warning to marine surveyors following US$30,000 off-spec grain cargo dispute'.
- **BIMCO –** has released an update entitled 'Why are 110 certified Indian ship recycling yards frozen out by Brussels?'.
- **Marine Traffic –** has released an update entitled 'Port State Control Monthly Update - March 2026'.

Recent Accident Reports

- **USA –** The NTSB has released an investigation report into the fire on board the pipelayer '*Deep Energy*' in Theodore, Alabama on 1st December 2024. The ship was berthed for maintenance when a fire started in the knuckle boom crane's cabin. There were no injuries or pollution. The investigation concluded that the likely source of the fire was a refrigerator within the cabin, which may have experienced an electrical fault or compressor failure.

Recent IMO Circulars

- **MSC 111/23 – 30/04/2026 –** Decisions of Other IMO Bodies.
- **FAL 50/Circ.56 – 30/04/2026 –** IMO Compendium on Facilitation and Electronic Business.
- **NCSR 13/14 – 30/04/2026 –** Unified Interpretation of Provisions of IMO Safety, Security, Environment, Facilitation, Liability and Compensation-Related Conventions.
- **NCSR 13/INF.15 – 30/04/2026 –** Development of Guidance to Establish a Framework for Data Distribution and Global IP-based Connectivity Between Shore-based Facilities and Ships for ECDIS S-100 Products and Operational Guidance for Route Exchange.
- **NCSR 13/INF.18 – 30/04/2026 –** Development of Global Maritime SAR Services, Including Harmonization of Maritime and Aeronautical Procedures and Amendments to the IAMSAR Manual.
- **NCSR 13/Z – 30/04/2026 –** Revision of the Performance Standards for Gyro-compasses (Resolution A.424(XI)) and Guidance for Navigation and Communication Equipment Intended for Use on Ships Operating in Polar Waters (MSC.1/Circ.1612).
- **NCSR 13/INF.19 – 30/04/2026 –** Any Other Business.
- **NCSR 13/21 – 30/04/2026 –** Development of Performance Standards for Ranging Mode (R-mode) in Radionavigation Receivers.
- **HNS.2/Circ.17 – 28/04/2026 –** Protocol of 2010 to the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, 1996.
- **III 12/9/1 – 28/04/2026 –** Analysis of Consolidated Audit Summary reports.

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.

- 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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