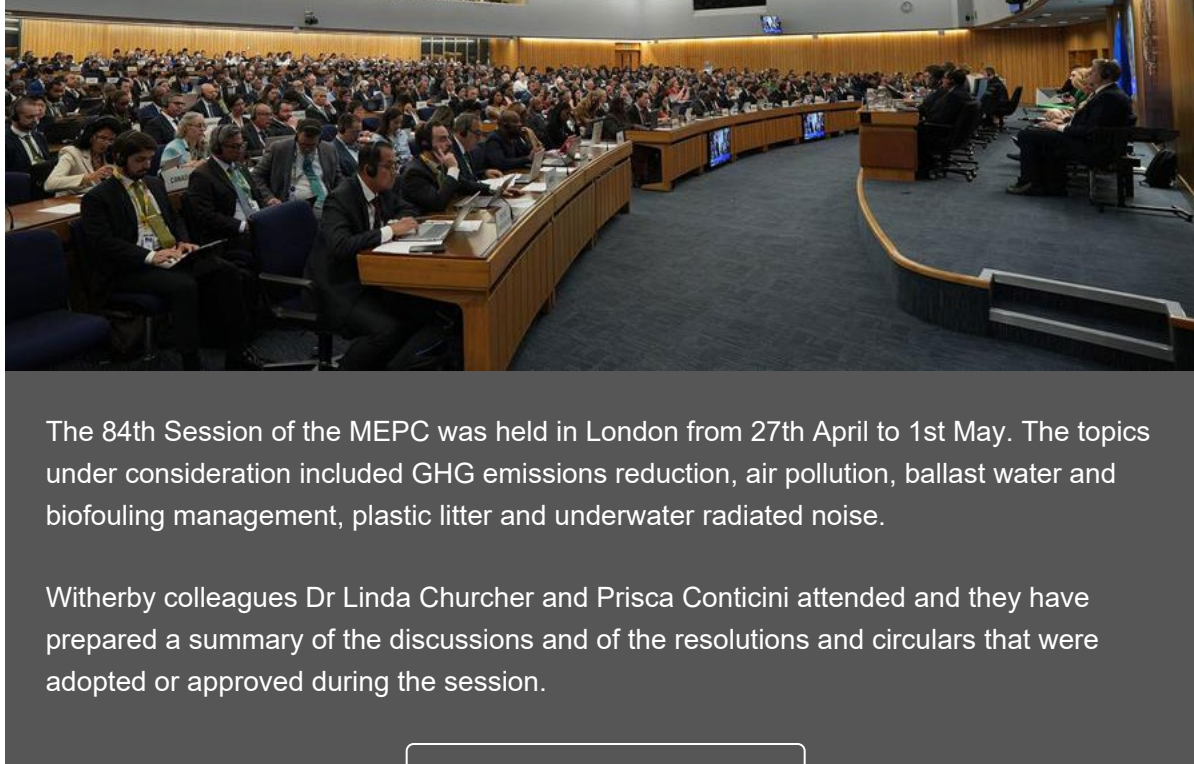


Shipping Regulations and Guidance

Week 19, 2026 – Friday 8th May
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Marine Environment Protection Committee 84th Session (MEPC 84)



The 84th Session of the MEPC was held in London from 27th April to 1st May. The topics under consideration included GHG emissions reduction, air pollution, ballast water and biofouling management, plastic litter and underwater radiated noise.

Witherby colleagues Dr Linda Churcher and Prisca Conticini attended and they have prepared a summary of the discussions and of the resolutions and circulars that were adopted or approved during the session.

[Read the full summary here](#)

Flag State Regulations and Guidance Update

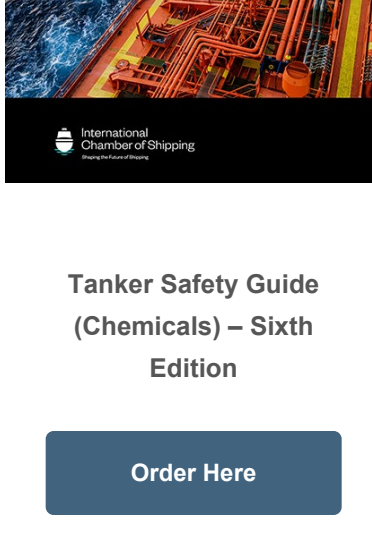
- Bahamas** – has released an update entitled '[MN108 – Hatches, Lifting Appliances and Anchor Handling Winches](#)'.
- Cyprus** – has released an update entitled '[Circular 14/2026 – China MSA "Guidelines on Shipping Companies" Fulfillment of Primary Responsibility for Work Safety \(Version 1.0\)"](#)'.
- Liberia** – has released two updates:
 - ["Marine Security Bulletin 10/2026 – Security incidents in approaches to Strait of Hormuz"](#)
 - ["Marine Security Bulletin 07/2026/Rev.2 – U.S Naval Blocade of all Iranian Ports and Coastal Areas"](#).
- Marshall Islands** – has released an update entitled '["Marine Notice No. 7-038-1 Rev. Apr/2026 – Periodically Unattended Machinery Spaces – Requirements for Safety of Operation and Reduced Manning"](#)'.
- Panama** – has released two updates:
 - ["Merchant Marine Circular MMC-270 – Fishing Vessels and other ships engaged in fishing related activities"](#)
 - ["Merchant Marine Circular MMC-258 – 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. 5 of 2026 – Requirements for Singapore-registered Pleasure Craft"](#)'.
- US** – has released two updates:
 - ["Marine Safety Information Bulletin 01-26 – First Notice: Major Ship Arrival Notification System \(SANS\) Update"](#)
 - ["Marine Safety Alert 06-26 – Importance of Adequate Navigation Bridge Visibility and Visual Lookouts"](#).

New from Witherbys

Out April 2026

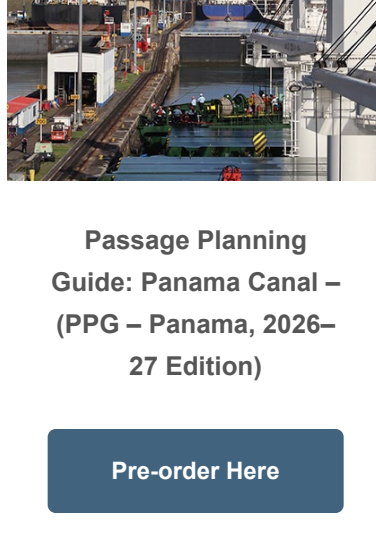
Due May 2026

Due May 2026



Tanker Safety Guide (Chemicals) – Sixth Edition

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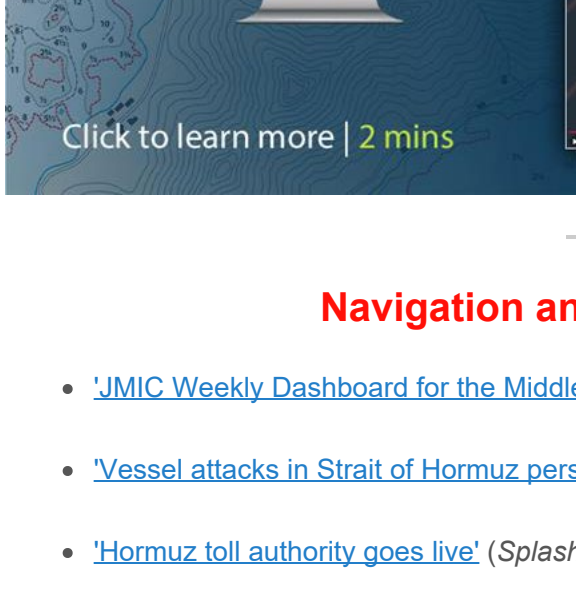
Passage Planning Guide: Panama Canal – (PPG – Panama, 2026–27 Edition)

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Passage Planning Guide: Suez Canal – (2026–27 Edition)

[Pre-order Here](#)



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Navigation and Security News

- ["JMJC Weekly Dashboard for the Middle East" \(UKMTO\)](#)
- ["Vessel attacks in Strait of Hormuz persist as security concerns rise" \(Safety4Sea\)](#)
- ["Hormuz toll authority goes live" \(Splash 24/7\)](#)
- ["Spanish Intercept Ship "Completely Stuffed" with Record Cocaine Load" \(The Maritime Executive\)](#)
- ["Risk Intelligence: How the Russia-Ukraine war reshapes Baltic Sea risk" \(Safety4Sea\)](#)

Recent Class Society Guidance

- DNV** – has released an update entitled '["Port State Control – Q1 2026 Detention review and other updates"](#)'.
- Korean Register** – has released an update entitled '["List of National Operational Contact Points for SOPEP/SMPEP"](#)'.
- Lloyd's Register** – has released an update entitled '["09/2026: Withdrawal of UK MRV regulations"](#)'.

- Marine Environment Protection Committee 84th Session (MEPC 84)**
 - [American Bureau of Shipping](#)
 - [Bureau Veritas](#)
 - [DNV](#)
 - [Korean Register](#)
 - [Lloyd's Register](#)
 - [ClassNK](#).

Recent P&I Club Guidance

- Gard** – has released two updates:
 - ["New guidelines: shipping of lithium-ion cells and batteries"](#)
 - ["Power-operated watertight doors can be deadly"](#).
- NorthStandard** – has released four updates:
 - ["CINS Guidelines for Shipping Lithium-ion cells and batteries in containers"](#)
 - ["Shipping Targeted in Emerging Brazilian Smuggling Trend"](#)
 - ["Seafarers Happiness Index reveals a quarter of two halves as geopolitical conflict drives decline"](#).
- Skuld** – has released an update entitled '["Clay liquefaction: a sticky risk to bulk cargo safety"](#)'.
- The International Group of P&I Clubs** – has released an update entitled '["CINS Guidelines for Shipping Lithium-ion Cells and Batteries in Containers"](#)'.
- West** – has released two updates:
 - ["Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships \(MASS\): Clarifying the IMO Definitions for Declarations"](#)
 - ["Iran sanctions – payment of "tolls" for Strait of Hormuz passage"](#).
- EU Sanctions: 20th package against Russia**
 - [Britannia](#)
 - [Japan P&I Club](#)
 - [NorthStandard](#)
 - [Skuld](#)
 - [The American Club](#)
 - [The Shipowners' Club](#)
 - [The Swedish Club](#)
 - [West](#)

Other Regulations and Guidance in the News

- ReCAAP** – has issued its [weekly piracy report](#).
- Marine Environment Protection Committee 84th Session (MEPC 84)**
 - [IMO](#)
 - [ICMCO](#)
 - [BIMCO](#)
 - [World Shipping Council](#)
 - [INTERCARGO](#).
- International Chamber of Shipping** – has released two updates:
 - ["The United Nations Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships"](#)
 - ["ICS in Action – April 2026"](#).
- Tokyo MoU** – has released an update entitled '["Annual Report on Port State Control in the Asia-Pacific Region 2025"](#)'.
- International Association of Classification Societies** – has released an update entitled '["IACS publishes results of Concentrated Inspection Campaign on onboard Emergency Power Supply"](#)'.

Recent Accident Reports

- UK** – The MNTB has released an [investigation report](#) into the engine room fire on board the site investigation vessel 'Kommandor Susan' in the Firth of Forth, Scotland on 25th January 2025. The vessel was conducting sea trials in the Firth of Forth when a loud bang was heard from the engine room, followed by a fire, blackout and loss of propulsion. Although the fire was rapidly extinguished, full propulsion could not be reestablished, and the vessel had to be towed back to the port of Leith. The investigation concluded that the fire had started when one of the diesel generators suffered a mechanical breakdown combined to the fitting of non-OEM engine parts.
- Germany** – The BSU has released an [investigation report](#) into the collision between the tug 'VB Rönnebeck' and the sailing yacht "Schöner Wohnen" off Rügen, Germany on 28th August 2023. The tug was guarding the 1 NM exclusion zone around two gas carriers at anchor in the Nordperd tanker roadstead when it spotted the yacht, sailed towards it to draw attention to the exclusion zone, and a collision ensued. No injuries or environmental damage were reported. The investigation found that several factors combined to cause the collision.

Recent IMO Circulars

- FAL 50/20 – 06/05/2026** – Report of the Facilitation Committee on its Fiftieth Session.
- Circular Letter No.5199 – 06/05/2026** – Communication from the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- Circular Letter No.5196 – 06/05/2026** – Communication from the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- EGDH 15/1 – 06/05/2026** – Provisional Agenda for the Fifteenth Session of the IMO Expert Group on Data Harmonization (EGDH 15), to be Held at IMO Headquarters from Monday 21 September to Friday 25 September 2026.
- TC 76/INF.12 – 06/05/2026** – Advancing Maritime Education and Training for the Global Maritime Sector.
- Circular Letter No.5184 – 06/05/2026** – Fifteenth Meeting of the IMO Expert Group on Data Harmonization (21 to 25 September 2026).
- TC 76/2/1 – 06/05/2026** – Decisions of Other IMO Bodies.
- TC 76/6/2 – 06/05/2026** – Review and Implementation of the Regional Presence and Coordination Scheme.
- FAL.6/Circ.14/Rev.3 – 05/05/2026** – Ship/Port Interface.
- III 12/3 – 05/05/2026** – Consideration and Analysis of Reports on Alleged Inadequacy of Port Reception Facilities.

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.

- 13-22 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)

Revealed: The main PSC Deficiencies for the Deck/Nav Dept that result in PSC DETENTIONS!

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