

Shipping Regulations and Guidance

Week 20, 2026 – Friday 15th May
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Flag State Regulations and Guidance Update

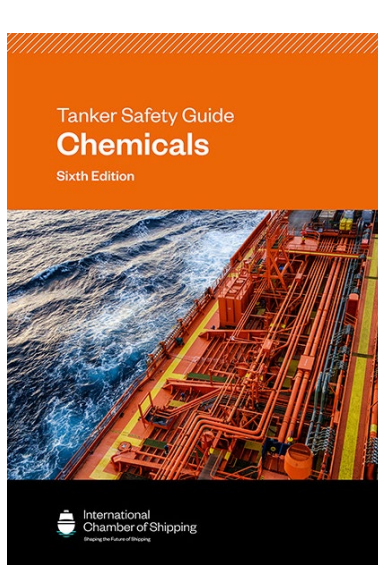
- **Australia** – has released an update entitled '[Marine Order 53 \(Vessels in polar waters\) 2026](#)'.
- **Bermuda** – has released an update entitled '[Bermuda Guidance Notice 2026-05-Format of seafarer medical form](#)'.
- **Liberia** – has released an update entitled '[Marine Advisory: 19/2022/Rev.1 - Hazards of Fumigation using Phosphide onboard Dry Bulk Cargo Vessels](#)'.
- **Marshall Islands** – has released an update entitled '[Marine Notice 2-011-57 Recreational Fire Appliances](#)'.
- **Malta** – has released two updates:
 - '[MS Notice 206 - Authentication of foreign documents](#)'
 - '[Information Notice 61 - Prevention of Collisions between Merchant and Fishing Vessels in China's Coastal Waters](#)'.
- **UK** – has released four updates:
 - '[MIN 736 \(M\) Life-saving appliances - open reversible liferafts \(ORLs\) - requirement for ID tubes](#)'
 - '[MGN 484 \(M\) Amendment 6: MLC published accident statistics advice](#)'
 - '[MGN 492 Amendment 3 protecting those not employed by the shipowner](#)'
 - '[MGN 624 \(M+F\) Amendment 3 Carcinogens and mutagens regulations 2007](#)'.

New from Witherbys

Out April 2026

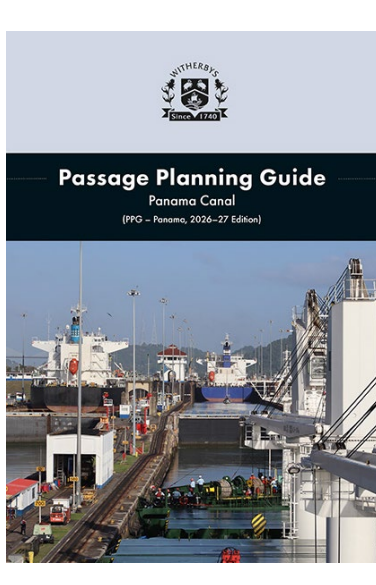
Due May 2026

Due May 2026



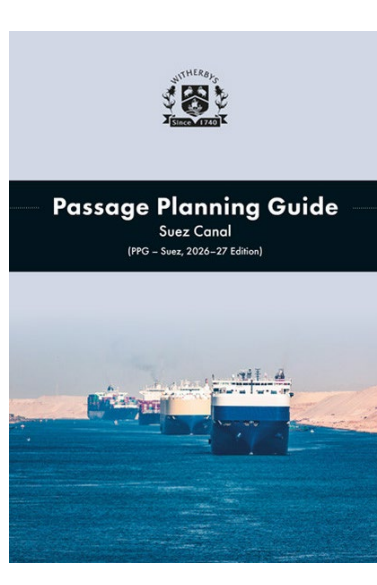
Tanker Safety Guide
(Chemicals) – Sixth Edition

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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)

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Navigation and Security News

- '[JMIC Weekly Dashboard for the Middle East](#)' (*UKMTO*)
- '[Atlantic 'Cocaine Highway' broken in coordinated maritime operation](#)' (*Europol*)
- '[Ocean temperatures are approaching record highs](#)' (*Safety4Sea*)
- '[Shipping Companies Leverage Arabian Peninsula Truck Routes to Bypass Hormuz](#)' (*The Maritime Executive*)
- '[Somali Pirates Reportedly Demand \\$10M to Release Small Product Tanker](#)' (*The Maritime Executive*)

Recent Class Society Guidance

- **ABS** – has released an update entitled '[UK MRV and UK ETS](#)'.
- **DNV** – has released an update entitled '[How to document PFOS-free fire-extinguishing foam on board](#)'.

Recent P&I Club Guidance

- **Britannia** – has released an update entitled '[Safe Planning and Conduct of Oversight Work](#)'.
- **NorthStandard** – has released an update entitled '[Cuban Sanctions Update](#)'.
- **The American Club** – has released two updates:
 - '[Good Catch Update: Gravity Is Not Always Friendly](#)'
 - '[Circular No. 10/26 - OFAC Issues Alert on Sanctions Risk of Iranian Demands for Strait of Hormuz Passage](#)'.
- **UK P&I Club** – has released an update entitled '[Crew Health Advice: Why Sharing Worries at Sea Matters](#)'.
- **West** – has released two updates:
 - '[The Dangers of Ro-Ro Vehicle Decks](#)'
 - '[Flighted Spongy Moth Complex 2026](#)'.

Other Regulations and Guidance in the News

- **ReCAAP** – has issued its [weekly piracy report](#).
- **BIMCO** – has released two updates:
 - '[Laytime: the need for contractual certainty about holidays in Saudi Arabia](#)'
 - '[BIMCO Chartering Network addressing energy saving, GHG, and issues related to the Strait of Hormuz](#)'.
- **INTERCARGO** – has released an update entitled '[Benchmarking Report 2025](#)'.

Recent Accident Reports

- **Malta** – The MSIU has released an [investigation report](#) into the injury onboard the bulk carrier 'Calobra' at Ruwais anchorage, UAE on 11th May 2025. When the crew opened cargo hold no.4 for inspection, a hydraulic oil leak was found and it was decided to conduct repairs that would involve hot work. The fitter conducting the repairs was severely burned in the process after the hydraulic oil ignited. The investigation identified several operational failures, including the absence of adequate hot work permits, critical knowledge gaps and inappropriate PPE.

Recent IMO Circulars

- **NCSR 13/12/2 – 13/05/2026** – Revision of the Performance Standards for Gyrocompasses (Resolution A.424(XI)) and Guidance for Navigation and Communication Equipment Intended for Use on Ships Operating in Polar Waters (MSC.1/Circ.1612).
- **III 12/INF.13 – 13/05/2026** – Lessons Learned and Safety Issues Identified from the Analysis of Marine Safety Investigation Reports & Identified Issues Relating to the Implementation of IMO Instruments from the Analysis of Data.
- **NCSR 13/8/1 – 13/05/2026** – Development of Guidelines for the 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)).
- **C 137/15(d)/Add.1 – 13/05/2026** – External Relations.
- **MSC.4/Circ.270 – 13/05/2026** – Reports on Acts of Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships.
- **III 12/INF.13 – 13/05/2026** – Measures to Harmonize Port State Control (PSC) Activities and Procedures Worldwide.
- **NCSR 13/13/2 – 13/05/2026** – Development of Performance Standards for Ranging Mode (R-Mode) in Radionavigation Receivers.
- **NCSR 13/11/2 – 13/05/2026** – Development of a Transition Scheme for the Introduction of Digital Technology for Very High Frequency (VHF) Voice Communications.
- **C 137/8/1 – 13/05/2026** – IMO Member State Audit Scheme.
- **NCSR 13/1/2 – 13/05/2026** – Adoption of the Agenda.

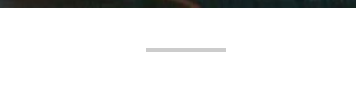
List of Amendments Expected to Enter into Force This Year and in the Coming Years

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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.

- 13-22 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 Contracting of Carriage 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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