

Shipping Regulations and Guidance

Week 21, 2026 – Friday 22nd May
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Flag State Regulations and Guidance Update

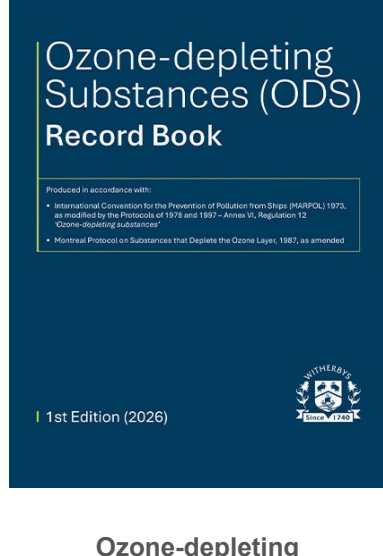
- Australia** – has released an update entitled '[Marine Order 25 \(Equipment — life-saving\) 2026](#)'.
- Bahamas** – has released an update entitled '[TA001 – United States Coast Guard QUALSHIP 21 & E-Zero Program](#)'.
- Cyprus** – has released an update entitled '[Circular 15/2026 Use of Electronic Record Books \(e-RBs\) under MARPOL and BWM Conventions](#)'.
- Liberia** – has released two updates:
 - [Marine Advisory: 09/2026 - AMSA National Compliance Plan 2025–26 – Port State Control \(PSC\) Preparation Guidance for Vessels Calling Australia](#)
 - [Marine Security Bulletin: 11/2026 - Report of Suspected Pirate Action Group \(PAG\) in the Gulf of Aden](#)
- Marshall Islands** – has released two updates:
 - [MSA-06-26 Information on Official Record and Log Books](#)
 - [MSA-07-26 China Maritime Safety Administration Guidelines for Shipping Companies](#)
- UK** – has released an update entitled '[MSN 1858 \(M+F\) - Amendment 2 - UK Requirements for Deck Officers on Large Yachts \(24m and over\)](#)'.
- US** – has released an update entitled '[MSIB Number: 02-26 National Recreational Boating Safety Survey](#)'.

New from Witherbys

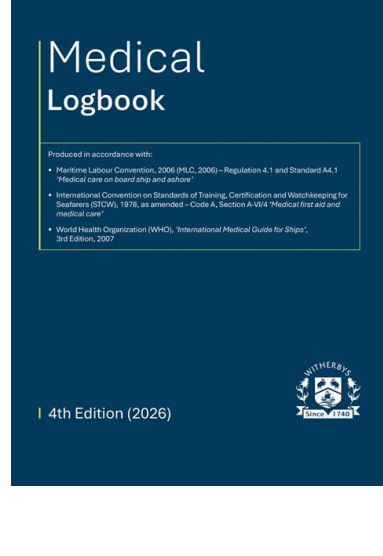
Out May 2026

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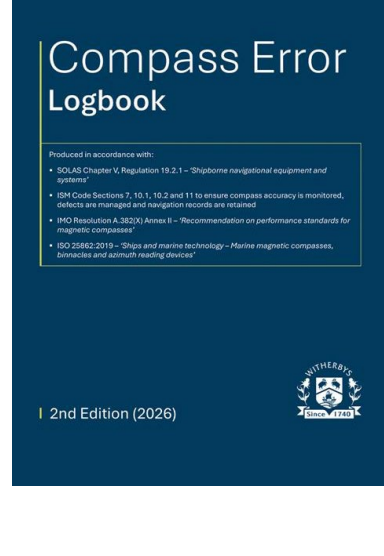
Out May 2026



Ozone-depleting Substances (ODS) Record Book - 1st Edition



Medical Logbook - 4th Edition



Compass Error Logbook - 2nd Edition

See the full range here

Navigation and Security News

- [JMJC Weekly Dashboard for the Middle East](#) (UKMTO)
- [Iran's "Persian Gulf Strait Authority" Takes Steps Towards Operations](#) (The Maritime Executive)
- [Malaysia to trial electronic ship reporting system in the Malacca Strait](#) (Safety4Sea)
- [UK ratifies IMO Cape Town Agreement on fishing vessel safety](#) (Baird Maritime)
- [El Niño unlikely to restrict Panama Canal ship traffic](#) (Seatrade Maritime News)
- [International study confirms increasing storm intensity in the Strait of Gibraltar](#) (Cadiz University)

Recent Class Society Guidance

- ABS** – has released an update entitled '[Nuclear Ready Application](#)'.
- CCS** – has released an update entitled '[2026 RCN No.1 to Rules for Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk](#)'.
- Korean Register** – has released an update entitled '[Amendments for Technical Rules and Guidance](#)'.
- Lloyd's Register** – has released an update entitled '[Shipping's digital transition ramps up](#)'.
- ClassNK** – has released an update entitled '[TEC-1376 Expansion of the UK-ETS to the shipping Sector \(2nd Report\)](#)'.

Recent P&I Club Guidance

- Gard** – has released two updates:
 - [Somali piracy warning](#)
 - [Fuel shortages raise concerns over fuel tank levels on car carriers](#)
- Japan P&I Club** – has released an update entitled '[Brazil Amazon River North Bar / Arco Lamoso Draft Amendment](#)'.
- NorthStandard** – has released two updates:
 - [Monsoon season in Indian ports - planning and preparedness](#)
 - [India bans Sugar exports till 30 September 2026](#)
- Steamship Mutual** – has released an update entitled '[EU Sanctions: 20th Sanctions Package Against Russia](#)'.
- The Swedish Club** – has released an update entitled '[EU 20th Sanctions Package: Owner Obligations on Tanker Sales](#)'.
- UK P&I** – has released two updates:
 - [Lessons Learnt: Vehicle Deck Operations – When Routine Becomes Risk](#)
 - [Carbon Capture and the Risk of LCO₂ Shipping](#)
- West** – has released an update entitled '[Cuba Sanctions Alert - Significant New Risks for Non-US Persons](#)'.

Other Regulations and Guidance in the News

- ReCAAP** – has issued its [weekly piracy report](#).
- BIMCO** – has released an update entitled '[Guidance for Vessel Transit through the Strait of Hormuz](#)'.
- International Chamber of Shipping** – has released an update entitled '[UNHCR, IMO and ICS unveil revised Rescue Guide to strengthen protection for refugees and migrants in distress at sea](#)'.
- International Institute of Marine Surveying** – has released an update entitled '[Black Sea MoU publishes Port State Control Annual Report 2025](#)'.
- IMO** – has released two updates:
 - [Revised rescue guide launched to safeguard life at sea](#)
 - [IMO and WMU launch handbook on gender mainstreaming in the maritime sector](#)
- UK Chamber of Shipping** – has released an update entitled '[Environment Round-Up | January - March 2026](#)'.

Recent Accident Reports

- US** – The NTSB has released an [investigation report](#) into the contact of the 'Mackenzie Rose' tow with the Norfolk and Portsmouth Belt Line Railroad Bridge near Chesapeake, Virginia on 15th June 2024. The tow was transiting the Elizabeth River when the bow of the barge being towed struck the Norfolk and Portsmouth Belt Line Railroad Bridge, causing significant damage. No injuries or pollution were reported. The investigation concluded that the mate likely lost control of the tow after switching between autopilot and hand steering, and possibly due to fatigue.

Recent IMO Circulars

- Circular Letter No.5004/Add.1 – 21/05/2026** – Resumed second extraordinary session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (4 December 2026).
- MEPC 85/1 – 21/05/2026** – Provisional Agenda for the eighty-fifth session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee, to be held from Monday, 30 November to Thursday, 3 December 2026 at IMO Headquarters, 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR.
- Circular Letter No.5192 – 20/05/2026** – Amendments to MARPOL Annex I.
- Circular Letter No.5191 – 20/05/2026** – Draft consolidated revised annex to the Ballast Water Management Convention.
- Circular Letter No.5193 – 20/05/2026** – Amendments to MARPOL Annex VI.
- Circular Letter No.5211 – 20/05/2026** – Communication from the Government of Belize regarding the issuance of electronic ship certificates.
- Circular Letter No.5208 – 20/05/2026** – Joint communication from the Kingdom of Bahrain, the State of Kuwait, the State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.
- Circular Letter No.5188 – 19/05/2026** – Twenty-second meeting of the Intersessional Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships (ISWG-GHG 22) (1 to 4 September 2026).
- ISWG-GHG 22/1 – 19/05/2026** – Provisional Agenda.
- Circular Letter No.5204 – 19/05/2026** – Resource Mobilization Note for the Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS) – Part 2: User Interface Modernization.

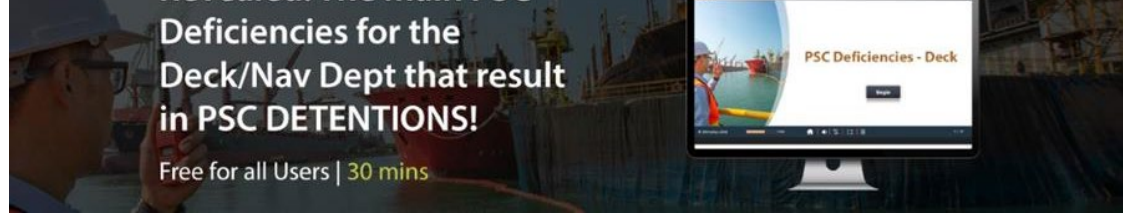
List of Amendments Expected to Enter into Force This Year and in the Coming Years

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A Guide to What's Happening at the IMO

The IMO has released the programme for 2026-2027. 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)
- 25-29 January – Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR)
- 08-12 February – Legal Committee (LG)
- 22-26 February – Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW)
- 25-29 March – Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE)



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Witherby Publishing Group
Natherby House
3 Almondvale Business Park
Almondvale Way
Livingston
EH54 6GA
United Kingdom

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