

Shipping Regulations and Guidance

Week 22, 2026 – Friday 29th May
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Maritime Safety Committee 111th Session (MSC 111)



(courtesy MSC 111)

The 111th Session of the MSC was held in London from 13th to 22nd May. The session is widely viewed as one of the IMO's most significant recent meetings due to the creation of the first international regulatory framework for autonomous commercial ships.

Our Technical Advisor Nathan Nicholson attended and has prepared a summary of the discussions and of the various amendments that were adopted or approved during the session.

[Read the full article here](#)

Flag State Regulations and Guidance Update

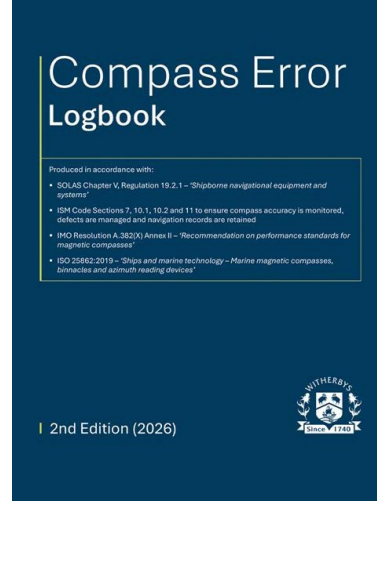
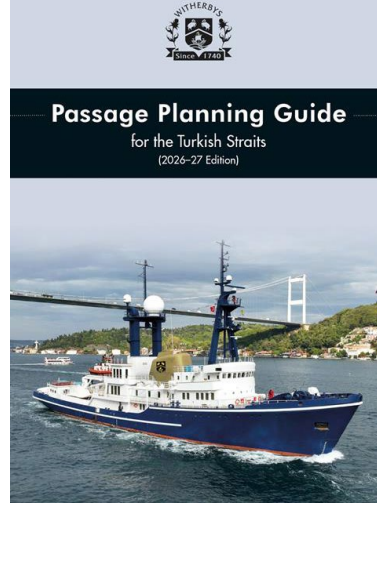
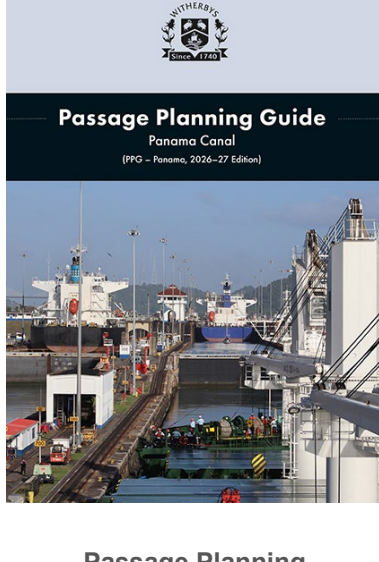
- Cayman Islands** – has released an update entitled '[Guidance Note 05/2026 \(Rev.1.0\) United States Coast Guard National Maritime Center - Lapse in Appropriations: Recognition of USCG STCW Dispensations](#)'.
- Cyprus** – has released an update entitled '[Circular 16/2026 Entry into force of amendments to IMO International Conventions and Instruments: September 2026 to March 2027](#)'.
- Hong Kong** – has released an update entitled '[MSIN 5/2026 A serious fire accident on board an underway container ship in tropical waters](#)'.
- Panama** – has released an update entitled '[Panama Flag Precheck Process](#)'.
- Liberia** – has released five updates:
 - [Marine Advisory: 14/2026 - Prevention of Finger and Hand Injuries – Safe Handling Practices, Pinch Point Awareness, and Compliance with Safety Management System Requirements](#)
 - [Marine Advisory: 13/2026 - Prevention of Suicides and Missing Person Incidents – Crew Welfare Management, Watchkeeping Controls, and Compliance with Safety Management System Requirements](#)
 - [Marine Advisory: 12/2026 - Prevention of Fatalities Associated with Consumption of Alcohol / Unknown or Unverified Liquids / Non-Beverage Alcohol Products – Safety Management System Controls, Crew Awareness, and Medical Response Requirements](#)
 - [Marine Advisory: 11/2026 - Most Common Maritime Labor Convention, as amended \(MLC 2006\) Deficiencies during PSC Inspections](#)
 - [Marine Advisory: 10/2026 - Concentrated Inspection Campaign \(CIC\) on MLC – Seafarer Employment Agreements and Wage Compliance](#)
- Marshall Islands** – has released an update entitled '[MSA 07-26 China Maritime Safety Administration Guidelines for Shipping Companies](#)'.
- Norway** – has released an update entitled '[Seafarer's Identity Cards and other identity documents on ships and mobile offshore units](#)'.
- UK** – has released an update entitled '[MSN 1876 \(M\) Amendment 1 Working time: inland waterways regulations 2003 as amended](#)'.

New from Witherbys

Out May 2026

Out May 2026

Out May 2026



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

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

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Navigation and Security News

- [JMJC Weekly Dashboard for the Middle East' \(UKMTO\)](#)
- [Seychelles Arrests Eight Iranians and Destroys Dhow Smuggling \\$23M of Drugs' \(The Maritime Executive\)](#)
- [Greece intensifies ship inspections ahead of summer season' \(Safety4Sea\)](#)
- [A veteran Panama Canal engineer becomes first woman to lead the interoceanic waterway' \(Independent\)](#)
- [Gibson: Even with immediate deal Hormuz recovery will take time' \(Safety4Sea\)](#)

Recent Class Society Guidance

- ABS** – has released an update entitled '[Smart Functions for Marine Vessels and Offshore Units](#)'.
- ClassNK** – has released an update entitled '[Release of the "Guidelines for Automated/Autonomous Operation on ships \(Ver. 2.1\)"](#)'.
- Korean Register** – has released an update entitled '[Revision of "Guidelines for Floating Offshore Wind Turbine Structure"](#)'.
- Lloyd's Register** – has released two updates:
 - [Fuel for Thought: LPG report'](#)
 - [Maritime ESG Maturity Index: Industry Benchmark Report'](#)
- IMO MSC 111**
 - [Bure](#)
 - [Bureau Veritas](#)
 - [DNV](#)
 - [Korean Register](#)
 - [Lloyd's Register](#)
 - [ClassNK](#)

Recent P&I Club Guidance

- Japan P&I Club** – has released an update entitled '[Japan Utilisation of Fisheries Operation Maps and Prevention of Damage to Fishing Gear in Gulf Coastal Waters](#)'.
- Skuld** – has released three updates:
 - [UK expands Russia sanctions regime'](#)
 - [INSIGHT: Cuba Sanctions'](#)
 - [Maritime security update: Gulf Region / Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea'](#)
- NorthStandard** – has released an update entitled '[What we learned from facilitating S-100 simulator trials with Minerva and Angelicoussis bridge teams](#)'.
- The Swedish Club** – has released three updates:
 - [Circular 2744/2026 UK Expands Russia Sanctions Regime – Key Implications for Maritime, Energy and Trade'](#)
 - [Guidance on Strait of Hormuz'](#)
 - [MSS Case May: Engine room fire caused by crack in fuel oil pipe'](#)
- The American Club** – has released two updates:
 - [Good Catch Update: The VHF Radio Did What?! - Very High Frequency \(VHF\) Auto Switch'](#)
 - [Circular No. 12/26 - Cuba Sanctions Updates and Issuance of Executive Order 14404'](#)
- West** – has released two updates:
 - [New Loss Prevention Bulletin and Video Published: Supporting Safer Tank Cleaning'](#)
 - [Russia Sanctions: New EU FAQs on Targeted Vessels and Tanker Sales'](#)

Other Regulations and Guidance in the News

- ReCAAP** – has issued its [weekly piracy report](#).
- BIMCO** – has released three updates:
 - [New guidelines support safe uptake of wind-assisted propulsion'](#)
 - [Update on the upcoming seasonal measures to protect whales'](#)
 - [CO2TIME 2026 published – a dedicated time charter party for liquefied CO2 transport'](#)
- IMO** – has released an update entitled '[IMO adopts first global Code for autonomous ships](#)'.
- Marine Traffic** – has released an update entitled '[Port State Control Monthly Update - April 2026](#)'.
- UK Chamber of Shipping** – has released an update entitled '[UK Chamber of Shipping Statement Regarding Security in the Middle East](#)'.

Recent Accident Reports

- Canada** – The TSBC has released an [investigation report](#) into the collision between the passenger vessel 'Navark Faucon Millenium' and pleasure craft '59E53608' on the St. Lawrence River near Navark on 27th June 2024. The operators of both vessels expected a close port-to-port passing, but a sudden change in the pleasure craft's heading resulted in collision. The investigation concluded that neither operator altered course or speed, which left no safety margin when the craft suddenly veered, likely due to dynamic instability linked to high speed.
- Marshall Islands** – The Maritime Administrator has released an [investigation report](#) into the fatal fall from height on board the cargo ship 'Green Future' while drifting near Kii Suido, Japan on 20th August 2024. The crew was in the process of cleaning cargo holds when a seafarer fell from the pontoon deck to the bottom of the tank he was working in, sustaining fatal injuries. The investigation found several factors that contributed to the accident, including lack of PPE and prescription glasses, inadequate temporary safety barrier and lack of clear stop-work authority guidance.

Recent IMO Circulars

- III 12/6/3 – 28/05/2026** – Measures to Harmonize the Supervisory Activities and Procedures of Port State Authorities Worldwide.
- C 137/5(b) – 28/05/2026** – Resource Management.
- III 12/13 – 28/05/2026** – Unified Interpretation of Provisions of IMO Safety, Security, Environment, Facilitation, Liability and Compensation Related Conventions.
- C 137/3/1 – 28/05/2026** – Rules of Procedure.
- TC 76/8/8 – 27/05/2026** – Capacity Development: Empowering all Women and the Promotion of Diversity, Equality, Equity and Inclusion (DEEI) in the Maritime Sector.
- Circular Letter No.5194 – 27/05/2026** – Amendments to the NOx Technical Code 2008.
- E&T 45/1 – 27/05/2026** – Provisional Agenda for the Forty-fifth Meeting of the Editorial and Technical Group (IMSBC Code) to be Held at IMO Headquarters from Monday, 21 to Friday, 25 September 2026.
- Circular Letter No.5174 – 27/05/2026** – Forty-fifth meeting of the Editorial and Technical (E&T) Group (IMSBC Code) of the Sub-Committee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC) (21 to 25 September 2026).
- TC 76/3/5 – 27/05/2026** – Technical Cooperation Planning and Reporting.
- III 12/12/2 – 26/05/2026** – Comprehensive Revision of the Guidelines on the Implementation of the ISM Code by Administrations and Companies.

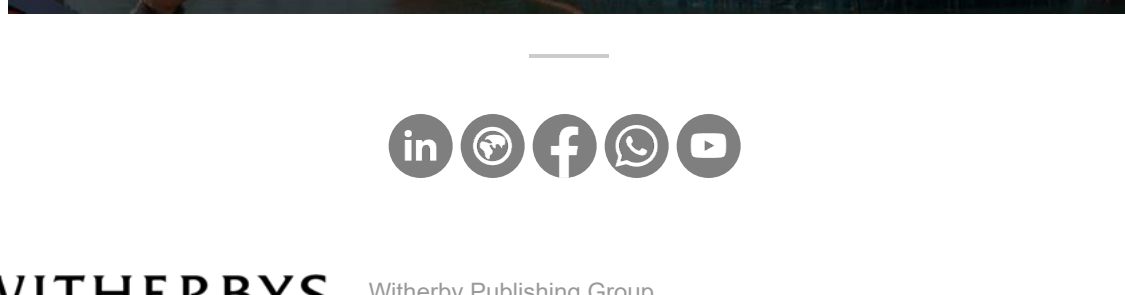
List of Amendments Expected to Enter into Force This Year and in the Coming Years

[PDF Download](#)

A Guide to What's Happening at the IMO

The IMO has released the programme for 2026-2027. Please see the IMO's [Meeting Summaries](#)' webpage for more information.

- 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)
- 15-19 March – Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE)



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