

Shipping Regulations and Guidance

Week 36, 2026 – Friday 4th September

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Flag State Regulations and Guidance Update

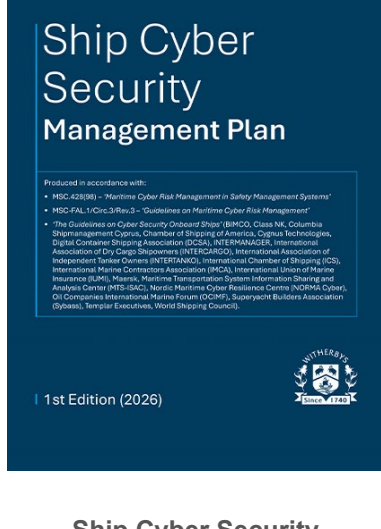
- Australia** – has released two updates:
 - [‘Marine Order 54 \(Coastal pilotage\) 2026’](#)
 - [‘2026/01 - Invalid extensions of Statutory Certification’](#).
- Bermuda** – has released an update entitled [‘Merchant Shipping Information Notice 2026-02 - CMOU CIC 2026 - MARPOL I and Cargo Securing’](#).
- Cayman Islands** – has released two updates:
 - [‘Guidance Note 09/2026 - Ship Radio Station Licence Accounting Authority Identification Code’](#)
 - [‘Guidance Note 10/2026 - Yacht Name Legibility’](#).
- Hong Kong** – has released an update entitled [‘MSIN 8/2026 Report of Marine Incidents’](#).
- Liberia** – has released two updates:
 - [‘Marine Security Bulletin 32/2026 - Vessel attacks in the Strait of Hormuz’](#)
 - [‘Marine Security Advisory 09/2023-Rev.14 - Security Situation in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden’](#).
- Malta** – has released two updates:
 - [‘MS Notice 2 Rev.1 - Flag State Inspection Programme’](#)
 - [‘MS Notice 208 - Unauthorised Transmission of Maltese MMSI numbers’](#).
- Marshall Islands** – has released three updates:
 - [‘Marine Notice No. 2-011-4 Rev. Sep/2026 Issuance and Use of Statutory Certificates’](#)
 - [‘Marine Notice No. 2-013-4 Rev. Sep/2026 Approval for Shipboard Marine Pollution Emergency Plans for Oil and/or Noxious Liquid Substances’](#)
 - [‘Marine Notice No. 2-011-58 Rev. Sep/2026 Life-saving Appliances and Fire-fighting Systems for Private Yachts’](#).
- Singapore** – has released three updates:
 - [‘Port Marine Circular No. 08 of 2026 - VHF Radio Telephone Reporting Procedures for Vessel Manoeuvring Within the Traffic Information Area \(TIA\) in the East Johor Strait Introduction’](#)
 - [‘Port Marine Circular No. 09 of 2026 - Business Continuity Plan for Haze’](#)
 - [‘Port Marine Circular No. 10 of 2026 - Submission of Accurate Information for Vessel Port Calls and Port Clearance’](#).
- US** – has released an update entitled [‘Safety Alert 12-26: Check Material Condition of Aging Fiberglass Lifeboats’](#).

New from Witherbys

Out September 2026

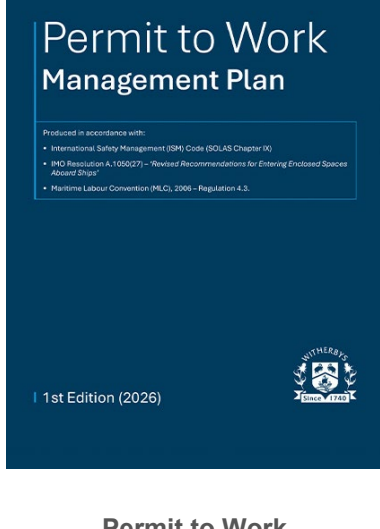
Out September 2026

Out September 2026



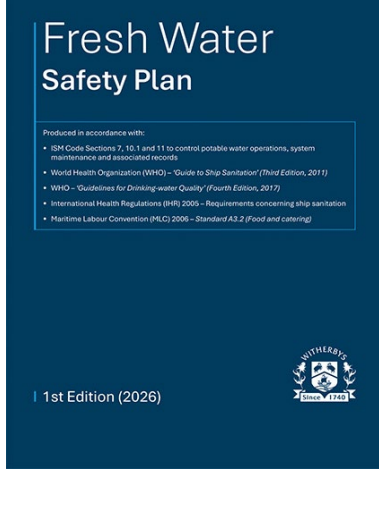
Ship Cyber Security Management Plan - 1st Edition (2026)

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Permit to Work Management Plan - 1st Edition (2026)

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Fresh Water Safety Plan - 1st Edition (2026)

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Navigation and Security News

- [‘UK proposes new navigation duties for shipmasters’](#) (*Splash 24/7*)
- [‘Panama Canal Adjusts Booking System to Ensure Equitable Slot Access’](#) (*The Maritime Executive*)
- [‘Cargo ship sinks after collision off Türkiye’s Istanbul, 10 crew missing’](#) (*Al Jazeera*)
- [‘U.S. Coast Guard established the Office of Maritime Cybersecurity Policy’](#) (*US Coast Guard News*)

Recent Class Society Guidance

- ABS** – has released three updates:
 - [‘Regulatory News 14/2026 EU MRV, ETS and FuelEU Review: Key Maritime Implications’](#)
 - [‘Autonomous and Remote Control Functions’](#)
 - [‘Independent Third-Party \(I3P\) Certification of Offshore Wind Farm Projects’](#).
- BV** – has released two updates:
 - [‘European Affairs Report Summer Edition \(July-August\)’](#)
 - [‘ETS, MRV and Fuel EU Maritime Revision Proposal \(July 2026\)’](#)
- Korean Register** – has released three updates:
 - [‘Notice for amendment of KR Technical Rules \(Rules and Guidance for the Classification of Steel Ships & Other Rules and Guidance\)’](#)
 - [‘MEPC 84 - News Final’](#)
 - [‘Notice for amendment of KR Technical Rules \(Guidance on Strength Assessment of Container ships Considering the Whipping Effect\)’](#).
- Lloyd’s Register** – has released four updates:
 - [‘14/2026: Update to Lloyd’s Register’s Rules for welding procedures and high heat input welding’](#)
 - [‘Pink Corridor project to explore safety requirements of nuclear-powered transatlantic container shipping route’](#)
 - [‘Applying Onboard Carbon Capture and Storage to Ships’](#)
 - [‘LR-GN-067 Guidance Notes for Retrofit of Alternative Fuels and Energy Saving Devices’](#).
- Gard** – has released two updates:
 - [‘Precautions against liquefaction when loading iron ore fines in India’](#)
 - [‘El Niño, Panama Canal restrictions, and routing off Cape Horn’](#).
- Japan P&I Club** – has released two updates:
 - [‘Togo - Further Warning on “Bartering” with Local Fishermen \(Update\)’](#)
 - [‘Australia - Preparation for the Concentrated Inspection Campaign \(CIC\) on Cargo Securing’](#).
- London P&I** – has released an update entitled [‘Togo - Beware of Bartering in Togolese Waters’](#).
- NorthStandard** – has released an update entitled [‘Risk of fines for exchanging items with locals in Togo’](#).
- The American Club** – has released an update entitled [‘Good Catch Update: A Snag in Your Plan? Be Careful Where Dropping Anchor’](#).
- The Swedish Club** – has released an update entitled [‘The Swedish Club launches new Loss Prevention podcast, Knot Another Lesson’](#).
- West** – has released an update entitled [‘Iran sanctions – Increased Secondary Sanctions Risk for Operating in the Iranian Shipping Sector’](#).

Other Regulations and Guidance in the News

- ReCAAP** – has issued its [weekly piracy report](#).
- ICS** – has released two updates:
 - [‘ICS in Action – August 2026’](#)
 - [‘Shipping industry welcomes the proposed inclusion of Indian ship recycling yards on the European List’](#).
- IIMS** – has released two updates:
 - [‘Lifejackets set to become compulsory on small craft in New Zealand’](#)
 - [‘India tightens loading rules for iron ore fines and Group A cargoes’](#).

Recent Accident Reports

- Singapore** – The TSIB has released an [investigation report](#) into the man overboard incident on board the bulk carrier *‘China Champion’* off the coast of West Africa, South of Liberia, on 26th December 2025. Maintenance was ongoing on a limit switch control box when one of the engineers was briefly left alone and fell overboard in Beaufort 5 winds. Recovery efforts were unsuccessful. The investigation found that the maintenance team had not used fall-arrest equipment, contrary to their permit to work.

Recent IMO Circulars

- ESPH 32/3/25 – 02/09/2026** – Evaluation of Products.
- MEPC 85/4/1 – 02/09/2026** – Harmful Aquatic Organisms in Ballast Water.
- MEPC 85/8/1 – 02/09/2026** – Follow-up Work Emanating from the Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships.
- IMO/ITU EG 22/5 – 02/09/2026** – Any Other Business.
- MEPC 85/9/1 – 02/09/2026** – Experience-building Phase for the Reduction of Underwater Radiated Noise from Shipping.
- ESPH 32/6/1 – 01/09/2026** – Preparation of Amendments to the IBC Code, Including to Chapters 17, 18, 19 and 21 and to Address Temperature Monitoring for Products Requiring Added Inhibitors.
- MEPC 85/13 – 01/09/2026** – Work Programme of the Committee and Subsidiary Bodies.
- ESPH 32/4 – 01/09/2026** – Evaluation of Cleaning Additives.
- ESPH 32/3/25 – 01/09/2026** – Evaluation of Products.
- ESPH 32/3/25 – 01/09/2026** – Decisions of Other Bodies.

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.

- 01-04 September – Intersessional Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships (ISWG-GHG)
- 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 – Intersessional Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships (ISWG-GHG)
- 30 November-03 December – 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)
- 12-16 April – Facilitation Committee (FAL)
- 26-30 April – Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR)
- 10-14 May – Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments (III)
- 24-28 May – Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Construction (SDC)
- 16-25 June – Maritime Safety Committee (MSC)
- 05-09 July – Technical Cooperation Committee (TC)
- 19-23 July – IMO Council

