

Shipping Regulations and Guidance

Week 37, 2026 – Friday 11th September
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SOMS Navigation and Aids to Navigation (AtoN) Questionnaire

Following August's announcement of the review of Under Keel Clearance (UKC) requirements in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS), Witherbys are assisting Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), particularly its maritime administration, who have issued a series of questions seeking the views and experience of mariners in the SOMS.

This questionnaire focuses specifically on navigation practices and the use, effectiveness and reliability of Aids to Navigation (AtoN) throughout the SOMS.

Please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire below.

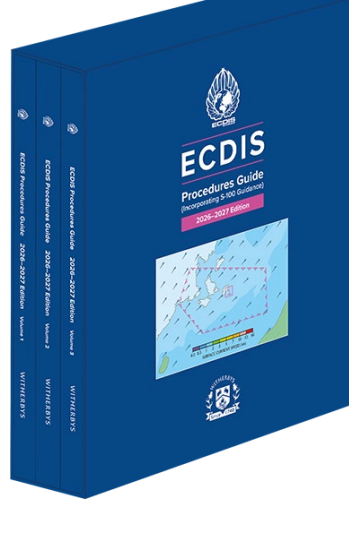
Complete the questionnaire here

Flag State Regulations and Guidance Update

- Australia** – has released an update entitled '[Marine Order 32 \(Cargo Handling Equipment\) 2016](#)'.
- Marshall Islands** – has released a update entitled '[Marine Safety Advisory No. 12-26 - Portable Atmosphere Testing Instruments](#)'.
- US** – has released an update entitled '[MSIB 06-26 Commercial Diving - USCG/OSHA Casualty Reporting Requirements - Cancels and Supersedes MSIB 004-14](#)'

New from Witherbys

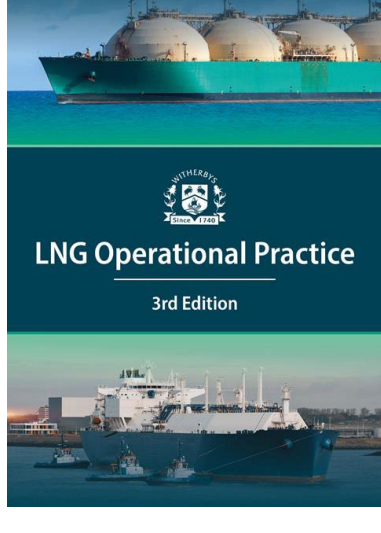
Out September 2026



ECDIS Procedures Guide (incorporating S-100 Guidance) - 2026-2027 Edition

Pre-order Here

Out October 2026



LNG Operational Practice - 3rd Edition

Pre-order Here

Out November 2026



Ballast Water Management, Understanding BWM for Regulatory Compliance - 17th Edition, Volumes 1-2

Pre-Order Here

Navigation and Security News

- ['Hormuz Attacks Reach Wartime High'](#) (*Splash* 24/7)
- ['Iran Threatens Tankers in Kuwait and Bahrain as IRGC Responds to US Attacks'](#) (*The Maritime Executive*)

Recent P&I Club Guidance

- NorthStandard** – has released four updates:
 - ['Port of Durban S.A. Updates'](#)
 - ['Ship Store List Declaration at Argentine Customs'](#)
 - ['Heavy Fines for Seabed Damage in Mediterranean'](#)
 - ['Strike impacts Port of Montevideo'](#).
- Japan P&I Club** – has released an update entitled ['Togo - Further Warning on "Bartering" with Local Fishermen \(Update\)'](#).
- The American Club** – has released two updates:
 - ['India: Loading of International Maritime SOLID Bulk Cargoes \(IMSBC\) Code Group a Cargoes'](#)
 - ['People's Republic of China \(PRC\): New Measures of Reporting for Ships Entering and Leaving PRC Ports'](#).
- UKP&I** – has released an update entitled ['Pre-load Steel Surveys'](#).

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 five updates:
 - ['Lifejackets Set to Become Compulsory on Small Craft in New Zealand'](#)
 - ['India Tightens Loading Rules for Iron Ore Fines and Group A Cargoes'](#)
 - ['USCG Urges Checks of the Material Condition of Ageing Fiberglass Lifeboats'](#)
 - ['Machinery Failures Remain Major Driver of Marine Hull Claims'](#)
 - ['Non-Compliant Wood Packaging Puts Shipments at Risk'](#)
- UK Chamber of Shipping** - has released one update:
 - ['UK Shipping industry launches new UK Alternative Maritime Fuels Coalition'](#)

Recent Accident Reports

- Marshall Islands** – The RMI Maritime Administrator has released an [investigation report](#) into the death of a deck trainee on board a bulk carrier laden with scrap metal, transiting the Mediterranean Sea on 19 February 2025. While assisting the bosun with routine inspection of booby hatch covers on Cargo Hold No. 1, the trainee was found collapsed near the hatch access space beneath the foreccastle deck. Rescue attempts by crewmates were hampered by toxic, oxygen-depleting gases released from the scrap metal cargo, and the trainee could not be revived despite CPR and a medevac to Algeria. The investigation found the space had not been classified as an "adjacent connected space" under IMO Resolution A.1050(27) because it was naturally ventilated — meaning none of the usual enclosed-space entry precautions had been applied before crew went in.

Recent IMO Circulars

- Circular Letter No.5262 – 10/09/2026** – Revised Text of the Statute of the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI).
- MEPC 85/2/2 – 10/09/2026** – Decisions of Other Bodies.
- MEPC 85/4/2 – 10/09/2026** – Harmful Aquatic Organisms in Ballast Water.
- MEPC 85/6/1 – 09/09/2026** – Energy Efficiency of Ships.
- ESPH 32/7/2 – 09/09/2026** – Revision of MEPC.1/Circ.512/Rev.1.
- ESPH 32/7/1 – 09/09/2026** – Revision of MEPC.1/Circ.512/Rev.1.
- ESPH 32/7 – 09/09/2026** – Revision of MEPC.1/Circ.512/Rev.1.
- ESPH 32/1/1 – 09/09/2026** – Adoption of the Agenda.
- MEPC 85/15/1 – 09/09/2026** – Any Other Business.
- MEPC 85/6/3 – 08/09/2026** – Energy Efficiency of Ships.

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.

- 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

