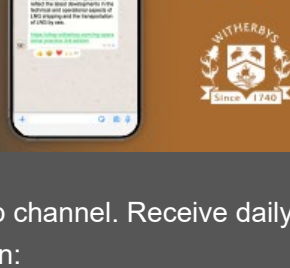


Shipping Regulations and Guidance

Week 42, 2026 – Friday 16th October
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Flag State Regulations and Guidance Update

- Cyprus** – has released an update entitled '[Circular 22/2026 - International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, STCW 78, as amended- Issue of Seafarer's Endorsements Attesting the Recognition of Non-Cyprus Certificate](#)'.

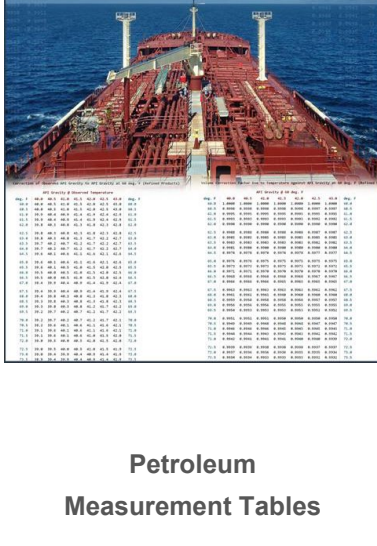
- US** – has released an update entitled '[Safety Alert 16-26: Inland Navigation Rules and Local Laws: Understanding Conflict Preemption](#)'.

New from Witherbys

Out October 2026

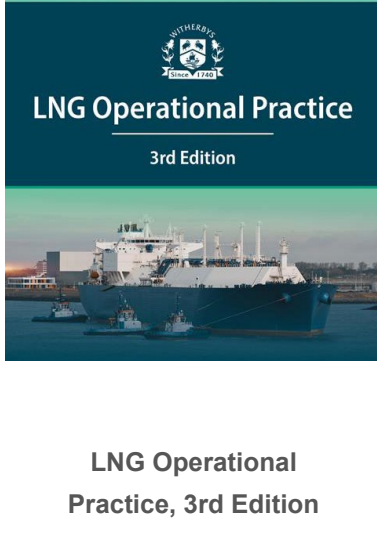
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Straits - (PPG - Baltic, 2027-28 Edition)

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Navigation and Security News

- ['Weekly Voluntary Reporting Area Overview'](#) (*UKMTO*)
- ['Panama Canal unaffected by huge earthquake'](#) (*Splash 24/7*)
- ['One Dead, Two Injured in High-Speed Smuggling Boat Chase off Portugal'](#) (*The Maritime Executive*)
- ['Malaysia imposes vessel restrictions near Singapore Strait'](#) (*Baird Maritime*)
- ['Cyber extortion group targets 38 maritime organizations'](#) (*Safety4Sea*)

Recent Class Society Guidance

- ABS** – has released six updates:
 - ['Cargo Securing Manual FAQ'](#)
 - ['Modified Tank Entry Program'](#)
 - ['Carbon Dioxide Transportation by Ship'](#)
 - ['Telemedicine'](#)
 - ['Remote Inspection Technologies'](#)
 - ['Smart Functions for Marine Vessels and Offshore Units'](#).
- CCS** – has released an update entitled '[Guidelines for Ships Using Hydrogen Fuel 2026](#)'.
- Indian Register of Shipping** – has released three updates:
 - ['No:019/2026: IMO Revised Guidelines on Safety during Abandon Ship Drills using Lifeboats'](#)
 - ['No:020/2026: IMO Guidelines on Maritime Cyber Risk Management'](#)
 - ['No:021/2026: VHF Data Exchange System \(VDES\)'](#).
- Lloyd's Register** – has released an update entitled '[17/2026: New IMO ESP Code framework for Remote Inspection Techniques](#)'.
- Polish Register of Shipping** – has released an update entitled '[Additional Rule Requirement 130/P Offshore Wind Farms – October 2026](#)'.

Recent P&I Club Guidance

- Gard** – has released an update entitled '[Hydrogen sulphide: The hidden danger outside enclosed spaces](#)'.
- Japan P&I Club** – has released an update entitled '[Cyber Security Measures Aboard Ships](#)'.
- London P&I Club** – has released an update entitled '[India – Six-Month Exemption for Salvage & Marine Pollution Response Requirements](#)'.
- North Standard** – has released an update entitled '[Malaysia establishes new Marine Sensitive Area](#)'.
- The Swedish Club** – has released an update entitled '[India: New ship entry requirements – Rule 6 of the 2026 Coastal Waters Rules](#)'.
- UK P&I** – has released two updates:
 - ['Biosecurity Measures for Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs \(BMSB\) in Australia and New Zealand – 2026-27 Season'](#)
 - ['Pilotage Operations and Navigational Safety: Lessons from Accident Investigations'](#).
- West** – has released two updates:
 - ['Iron Ore Fines from India: Liquefaction Alert!'](#)
 - ['India's salvage and spill response precontracting requirements deferred until 1 April 2027'](#).

Other Regulations and Guidance in the News

- ReCAAP** – has issued its [weekly piracy report](#).
- BIMCO** – has released three updates:
 - ['Dry bulk safety: scrap metal fires, fumigation and enclosed spaces'](#)
 - ['New BIMCO contracts tackle ship recycling and energy-saving retrofits'](#)
 - ['Where are the whales? Useful tools you can use to help protect them'](#).
- ICC** – has released an update entitled '[Maritime piracy incidents remain at historic lows despite Somali piracy concerns](#)'.
- Tokyo MoU** – has released an update entitled '[Tokyo MOU's Changing of the Method of Calculation of the Performance on Flag and RO](#)'.

Recent Accident Reports

- Hong Kong** – The MAIB has released an [investigation report](#) into the fatal accident on board the tanker '*Olivia*' near Ningbo, China on 20th October 2025. Two crew members were working on the mooring deck in heavy weather when a huge wave struck the bow and water swept them across the deck, causing serious injuries and ultimately killing one. The investigation found that the procedures for working on deck in heavy weather detailed in the company SMS had not been followed, the crew's risk assessment lacked effectiveness and the medical evacuation was not timely or efficient.
- Hong Kong** – The MAIB has released an [investigation report](#) into the fatal accident on board the bulk carrier '*Selo*' in the Atlantic Ocean on 24th July 2025. The manhole covers of the ship's cargo holds (containing wood pellets) had been opened for regular maintenance tasks. When the Chief Officer failed to appear during the lunch break, a search was undertaken and he was found lying unconscious at the bottom of one of the tanks. He could not be resuscitated. The investigation concluded that the accident likely resulted from the Chief Officer entering the cargo hold to retrieve the gas detector's battery and succumbing to asphyxiation as oxygen levels in the hold were fatally low. Atmospheric testing might have been inadequate over the previous days, leading to a false perception that the atmosphere inside the hold was safe, and SMS procedures were either missing or not followed.

Recent IMO Circulars

- ISWG-GHG 23/3/9– 14/10/2026** – Further Consideration of the Draft Guidelines Supporting the Uniform and Effective Implementation of IMO's Mid-term Measures.
- ISWG-GHG 23/2/8– 14/10/2026** – Consideration of Proposals, Including Documents Submitted to MEPC 84 and 85, previous Sessions of ISWG-GHG, as well as Documents Submitted to ISWG-GHG 22, on how to Address Concerns with the Draft Amendments to MARPOL Annex VI on the Net-zero Framework, in Line with the 2023 IMO GHG Strategy.
- MSC 112/16/11 – 14/10/2026** – Any Other Business.
- C 138/3/2 – 14/10/2026** – Rules of Procedures.
- C 138/15 – 14/10/2026** – Place, Date and Duration of the Next Session of the Council and Substantive Items for Inclusion in the Provisional Agendas for the Next Two Sessions of the Council (C 139 and C 140).
- ISWG-GHG 23/4/13– 14/10/2026** – Further Consideration of the Development of the IMO Life Cycle GHG Assessment (LCA) Framework.
- C 138/11 – 14/10/2026** – Protection of Vital Shipping Lanes.
- MEPC 85/4/13 – 14/10/2026** – Harmful Aquatic Organisms in Ballast Water.
- C 138/10(d) – 14/10/2026** – External Relations.
- MSC 112/5/8 – 14/10/2026** – Development of a Goal-Based Instrument for Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS).

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.

- 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)
- 04 December – Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC.ES/2) [subject to confirmation]
- 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 (IIII)
- 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
- 20-24 September – Sub-Committee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC)

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