Shipping Regulations and Guidance

Week 47, 2026 – Friday 20th November
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Flag State Regulations and Guidance Update

- **Australia –** has released an update entitled 'Marine Order 503 (Certificates of survey — national law) 2026'.

- **Canada –** has released an update entitled 'Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) training requirements'.

- **Hong Kong –** has released two updates:
  - 'MSIN 17/2026 United Nations Sanctions (Democratic Republic of the Congo) Regulation 2019 (Amendment) Regulation 2026'
  - 'MSIN 18/2026 United Nations Sanctions (Libya) Regulation 2019 (Amendment) Regulation 2026'.

- **Liberia –** has released three updates:
  - 'Marine Security Bulletin: 48/2026 - Unauthorized Boarding in Gulf of Aden'
  - 'Marine Security Bulletin: 47/2026 - Vessel attack in the Arabian Gulf'
  - 'Marine Security Bulletin: 46/2026 - Vessel attacks in the Strait of Hormuz'.

- **Malta –** has released an update entitled 'Information Notice 64 - Insufficient passage width in free fall lifeboats'.

- **Panama –** has released three updates:
  - 'Circular 245 - Armed Security Personnel on board Panama flagged vessels transiting High Risk Areas'
  - 'Circular 194 - Extended service intervals not exceeding 30 months for novel inflatable liferafts'
  - 'Circular 183 - Continuous Synopsis Record (CSR)'.

- **Singapore –** has released an update entitled 'Port Marine Circular No.12 of 2026 - Early Adopter Scheme for Electric Harbour Craft (EASE)'.

- **UK –** has released an update entitled 'MIN 655 Amendment 2 (M+F) new-style certificates for UK seafarers and those working onboard UK ships'.

New from Witherbys

Out November 2026

Ballast Water Management, Understanding BWM for Regulatory Compliance, 17th Edition

Order Here

Due November 2026



Passage Planning Guidelines, 2026-27 Edition (Incorporating Radar and ARPA, Safe Nav Watch and Teamwork on the Nav Bridge)

Pre-order Here

Due January 2027



General Rules for Tankers, Owned or Operating in the USA - 2027 Edition

Pre-order Here

Navigation and Security News

- 'Weekly Voluntary Reporting Area Overview' *(UKMTO)*

- 'IMO MEPC 85: What's on the agenda?' *(Safety4Sea)*

- 'One of the World's Busiest Shipping Lanes Sees Three Robberies in Eight Days' *(Marine Insight)*

Recent Class Society Guidance

- **ABS –** has released three updates:
  - 'Importance of Accurate Vessel Air Draft Information'
  - 'Unmanned Surface Vessels'
  - 'Enhanced Life Saving Appliance Maintenance'.

- **Lloyd's Register –** has released two updates:
  - 'LR introduces new notation to tackle EV fire risks on car carriers'
  - 'LR reviews methodology to verify wind-assisted fuel savings'.

Recent P&I Club Guidance

- **Gard –** has released an update entitled 'Mediation in shipping disputes: an opportunity worth taking'.

- **Japan P&I –** has released three updates:
  - 'CINS - Operational Guidelines for Lithium-Ion Batteries Shipped Under SP188'
  - 'USA - Verification of Air Draft and Navigational Safety Management'
  - 'Philippines Legal Update| Supreme Court Upholds Validity of Final Disability Assessment Issued Beyond 120 Days'.

- **London P&I –** has released an update entitled 'Sanctions Clauses in Charterparties: Are Standard Clauses Enough?'.

- **North Standard –** has released three updates:
  - 'ANTAQ overhauls Brazil's Inland Navigation Framework'
  - 'Brazilian Ports revise operational limits'
  - 'EU Entry/Exit System: Implications for Dutch Port Operations and Crew Changes'.

- **Skuld –** has released two updates:
  - 'EU Emission Trading System applying to offshore vessels from 1 January 2027'
  - 'The US and China reciprocally extend the suspensions of service fees'.

- **The American Club –** has released three updates:
  - 'PRC: Administrative Penalties for Breach of Inland Water Traffic Rules in Ports Along the Yangtze River'
  - 'U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Marine Safety Alert: Air Draft - Confirm Your Highest Point'
  - 'Circular No. 20/26 - OFAC Issues a Determination Targeting the Marine, Manufacturing, and Other Sectors of the Cuban Economy and Issues an Alert on False Flagging'.

- **UK P&I –** has released an update entitled 'Crew Health Advice: Men's Health and Wellbeing at Sea'.

- **West –** has released an update entitled 'Turkey – Environmental Pollution Fines: Updated for 2027'.

Other Regulations and Guidance in the News

- **ReCAAP –** has issued its weekly piracy report.

- **ICS –** has released two updates:
  - 'ICS Chair warns rising geopolitical risks threaten global trade and freedom of navigation at Hong Kong Global Maritime Trade Summit'
  - 'Shipping industry urges governments to agree on global GHG regulations to provide regulatory certainty and incentivize maritime decarbonization'.

- **IACS –** has released an update entitled 'IACS Publishes New Recommendation on Gas Dispersion Analysis (Rec.202)'.

- **UK CoS –** has released an update entitled 'Putting Commercial Shipping at the Heart of Maritime Security'.

Recent Accident Reports

- **US –** The NTSB has released an investigation report into the contact of the ro-ro carrier *'Morning Menad'* with the dock at Dundalk Marine Terminal in Baltimore, Maryland on 5th December 2024. The ship was manoeuvring into its berthing position when it was blown sideways by strong winds, causing it to contact the dock before grounding across the terminal channel. There were no injuries or pollution, but damage amounted to $1.4 million. The investigation concluded that the pilots' reluctance to alter the mooring plan in the deteriorating wind conditions likely contributed to the accident.

Recent IMO Circulars

- **LC-LP.2/Circ.42 – 18/11/2026 –** 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972.
- **HTW 13/6/7 – 18/11/2026 –** Comprehensive Review of the 1978 STCW Convention and Code.
- **PPR 14/3 – 17/11/2026 –** Safety and Pollution Hazards of Chemicals and Preparation of Consequential Amendments to the IBC Code.
- **MSC 112/16/6/Rev.1 – 17/11/2026 –** Any Other Business.
- **LEG 114/15 – 17/11/2026 –** Development of a Comprehensive Strategy on Maritime Digitalization.
- **LEG 114/3 – 17/11/2026 –** Facilitation of the Entry into Force and Harmonized Interpretation of the 2010 HNS Protocol.
- **HTW 13/5 – 17/11/2026 –** Reports on Unlawful Practices Associated with Certificates of Competency.
- **Circular Letter No.5314 – 17/11/2026 –** Communication from the Government of the State of Kuwait.
- **LEG 114/14 – 16/11/2026 –** Measures to Address Maritime Security Threats.
- **LEG 114/16 – 16/11/2026 –** Work Programme.

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.

- 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 (MEPS ES/2) [subject to confirmation by MEPC 85]
- 14-18 December – Maritime Safety Committee (MSC)
- 25-29 January – Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR)
- 09-12 February – Legal Committee (LEG)
- 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
- 20-24 September – Sub-Committee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC)
- 11-15 October – Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC)
- 25-29 October – Consultative Meetings of Contracting Parties (London Convention 1972) and Meetings of Contracting Parties (London Protocol 1996)



WITHERBYS

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

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