



Merchant Marine **Notice**

Panama Maritime Authority
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Control and Compliance Department

F-34
(DCCM)
V.04

SUMMARY OF IMO REQUIREMENTS ENTERING INTO FORCE IN 2026

No: MMN-02/2026

1. Purpose:

The purpose of this Merchant Marine Notice is to provide Shipowners, Operators, Masters, Recognized Organizations, and other relevant stakeholders with a summary of key international maritime regulatory requirements adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) that are scheduled to enter into force in 2026.

Unless otherwise specified, the requirements outlined below enter into force on 1 January 2026.

2. IMO Requirements Entering into Force in 2026:

- Resolution A.1206(34):

Procedures for Port State Control, 2025.

Key updates include:

New guidelines addressing security-related aspects;

Expanded detainable deficiencies related to the ISM Code, LRIT, and seafarer certification;

Revisions to MARPOL Annex VI guidance on compliant fuel oil.

Entry into force: 1 January 2026.

- Resolution A.1207(34):

Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC) Guidelines, 2025.

This Resolution replaces Resolution A.1186(33) and includes:

Survey requirements related to the Industrial Personnel (IP) Code;

Guidance on remote surveys, examination of certificates and records for instruments entering into force up to 31 December 2025.

Merchant Marine **Notice**

Entry into force: 1 January 2026.MSC.532(107):

The SOLAS Chapter II-1/3-13 on the safety of onboard lifting appliances and anchor handling winches.

Introduces a design, construction, testing and maintenance regime, with the aim to better prevent accidents with lifting appliances and anchor handling winches as well as loose gear utilized with.

Entry into force: new ships and existing ships, no later than the 1st renewal survey on or after 1 January 2026.

Amendments to SOLAS Chapter II-2 for the prohibition of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) fire-extinguishing media.

A prohibition of use or storage of extinguishing media containing PFOS shall be prohibited. For extinguishing media containing such foams on existing ships, the substance shall be removed from the ship and delivered to appropriate shore-based reception facilities.

Entry into force: fixed and portable firefighting systems using foams, for new built ships, from 1 January 2026; for existing ships, no later than the first SOLAS survey on or after 1 January 2026.

- MSC.520(106):

Amendments to SOLAS Chapter II-2 to prevent non-compliance of oil fuel supply with SOLAS flashpoint requirements.

SOLAS Chapter II-2 aim to enhance the safety of ships using oil fuel. New definitions and provisions to SOLAS regulation II-2/4 (probability of ignition).

Entry into force: 1 January 2026.

- MSC.535(107):

Amendments to the LSA Code (Chapter IV) for the minimum ventilation rate of totally enclosed lifeboats.

A totally enclosed lifeboat shall be provided with means to achieve a ventilation rate of at least 5 m³/h per person for the number of persons which the lifeboat is permitted to accommodate and for a period of not less than 24 hours.

Entry into force: 1 January 2026.

Merchant Marine **Notice**

- MSC.554 (108):

Amendments to the LSA Code.

- General requirements for lifejackets.
- General requirements for lifeboats.
- Launching appliances using falls and a winch.

Entry into force: 1 January 2026.

- MSC.551(108):

Amendments to the IGF Code.

Regulations to specific requirements for ships using natural gas as fuel, related to ships design fuel containment, pressure relief system, storage, pipes, bunkering, manufacture and testing for the fuel containment system.

Entry into force: 1 January 2026.

- MEPC.392(82):

Implementation dates following the designation of the Canadian Arctic and Norwegian Sea as Emission Control Areas (ECAs).

Entry into force:

- SO_x (0,10% m/m limit) ECAs take effects on 1 March 2027.
- NO_x (Tier III compliance), ECAs take effect:
 - Canadian Arctic waters: ships constructed on or after 1 January 2025
 - Norwegian Sea: ships constructed on or after 1 March 2026, the building contract is placed on or after 1 March 2026; or in the absence of a building contract, the keel of which is laid or which is at a similar stage of construction on or after 1 September 2026; or the delivery of which is on or after 1 March 2030.

- MSC.532(107):

Amendments to SOLAS Chapter V for the mandatory carriage of electronic inclinometers on new container ships and bulk carriers $\geq 3,000$ GT.

clarified that the carriage requirement does not apply to cargo ships occasionally carrying cargoes in bulk and general cargo ships carrying containers on deck.

Entry into force: New bulk carriers and container ships of more than 3,000 GT, constructed on or after 1 January 2026 (no retroactive application to existing ships).

Merchant Marine **Notice**

- MSC.553(108):

Amendments to the 2011 ESP Code

Regarding procedures for approval and certification of a firm engaged in thickness measurement of hull structures.

Entry into force: 1 January 2026

- MSC.557(108)/ MSC.558(108):

Amendments to Resolutions MSC.215(82) and MSC.288(87) on the performance standards for protective coatings related to SOLAS II-1/3-2.2 and SOLAS II-1/3-11.3.1.

Performance standards for protective coatings for dedicated seawater ballast tanks in all types of ships and double-side skin spaces of bulk carriers as well as cargo oil tanks and crude-oil tankers, concern coatings inspection requirements.

Entry into force: 1 January 2026

- MSC.550(108):

Amendments to SOLAS Chapters II-2 and V.

- Chapters II-2 Part B: prevention of fire and explosion.
- Chapters II-2 Part C: suppression of fire.
- Chapters II-2 Part G: special requirements.
- Chapter V Safety of navigation.

Entry into force: 1 January 2026.

- MSC.534(107):

Amendments to Form E (Safety Equipment Certificate for Cargo Ships) of SOLAS Protocol of 1978 as a result of GMDSS modernization.

Entry into force: 1 January 2026.

Amendments to Form E (Safety Equipment Certificate for Cargo Ships) of SOLAS Protocol of 1978 as a result of the mandatory carriage of electronic inclinometers (SOLAS CHapter V).

Amendments to SOLAS Chapter V and the Appendix (Certificates) for the mandatory carriage of electronic inclinometers, the appendix Form of safety equipment certificate for cargo ships (Form E) was modified for both 1978 & 1988 SOLAS Protocols. A new entry was added after Gas carrier: "Containership".

Entry into force: 1 January 2026.

Merchant Marine **Notice**

- MEPC.384(81):

Amendments to Article V of Protocol I of MARPOL for the mandatory reporting procedures of lost containers.

In case of the loss of freight container(s), the report required by article II(1)(b) shall be made in accordance with the requirements on danger messages as provided for in regulations V/31 and V/32 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974.

Entry into force: 1 January 2026.

- MSC.556(108):

IMDG Code - Amendments 42-24 (consolidated version of the Code).

The IMDG Code is amended every two years and a consolidated text of the code is produced every four years.

Entry into force: 1 January 2026.

- MSC.1/- Circ.1588/ Rev.3:

Revised emergency response procedures for ships carrying dangerous goods (EmS Guide).

The revised EmS Guide includes emergency schedules and guidelines for fire and spillage in case of incidents involving dangerous substances, materials or articles, or harmful substances (marine pollutants).

Entry into force: 1 January 2026.

- MSC.552(108):

Amendments to the Grain Code.

These amendments introduce a new class of loading conditions for specially suitable compartment, partly filled in way of the hatch opening, with ends untrimmed and revised calculation of assumed heeling moments and general assumptions.

Entry into force: 1 January 2026.

- HSC Code/MS.537(107):

Consequential amendments to 1994 and 2000 HSC Codes after prohibition of PFOS in SOLAS Chapter II-2.

Amendments of SOLAS chapter II-2 for the prohibition of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) fire-extinguishing media, the 1994 & 2000 HSC Codes were amended.

Entry into force: 1 January 2026.

- IGC Code - MSC.523(106)/ IGF Code - MSC.524(106):

Amendments to IGC and IGF Code to allow the application of high manganese austenitic steel for cryogenic service in cargo and fuel tanks of LNG carriers and LNG-fuelled ships.

Amendments the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (IGC Code) and the International Code of Safety for Ships Using Gases or other Low-flashpoint Fuels (IGF Code) allow the application of high manganese austenitic steel for cryogenic service in cargo and fuel tanks of LNG carriers and LNG-fuelled ships.

Entry into force: 1 January 2026.

- MSC.542(107)/MSC.543(107):

Amendments to the appendix of the 1983 & 2008 Codes of safety for special purpose ships (SPS).

Amendments the Record of Equipment for the Special Purpose Ship Safety Certificate (Form SPS).

Entry into force: 1 January 2026.

- MSC.538 (107):

Amendments to SOLAS to expand requirements of Polar Code on safety of navigation and voyage planning for certain non-SOLAS ships.

SOLAS regulation XIV/2 is amended to introduce non-SOLAS ships; two new regulations are adopted, new SOLAS regulations XIV/9.1 (Safety of navigation for non- SOLAS ships) and XIV/11.1 (Voyage planning for non-SOLAS ships), respectively chapters 9.1 and 10.1 of Polar Code.

Non-SOLAS ships refer to fishing vessels > 24 m; pleasure yachts > 300 GT not engaged in trade and cargo ships > 300 GT but < 500 GT.

Entry into force: 1 January 2026.

- MSC.566(109):

Amendments to Chapter 16 (use of cargo as fuel) the International Code for the construction and equipment of ships carrying liquefied gases in bulk (IGC Code).

Amendments to Chapter 16 (use of cargo as fuel) were adopted to enable the use of other cargo gases as fuel, provided that the same level of safety is ensured as for natural gas methane under IGC Code.



Merchant Marine **Notice**

Entry into force: new ships: constructed on or after the 1 January 2026 and existing ships: compliance to new regulations required from 1 January 2027.

- MSC.555(108):

Amendments to the FSS Code.

Amendments to fire safety of ro-ro passenger ships (fixed water-based fire extinguishing systems, visual and audible fire signals, heat and smoke detectors).

Entry into force: 1 January 2026.

- MSC.1/Circ.1686:

Amendments to the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and rescue (IAMSAR) manual.

The amendments to the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) manual, volume I, II and III.

Entry into force: 1 January 2026.

- MSC.566(109):

Amendments to the International Code for the construction and equipment of ships carrying liquefied gases in bulk (IGC Code).

Amendments to adopted to enable the use of other cargo gases as fuel, provided that the same level of safety is ensured as for natural gas methane under IGC Code.

Entry into force: 1 July 2026.

January, 2026 – New.

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Merchant Marine Notice or any other request should be forward to:

Navigation and Maritime Safety Department
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority

Phone: (507) 501-5031

E-mail: psc@amp.gob.pa

Website: <https://panamashipregistry.com/marine-category/marine-notices/>

PanCanal Building
Albrook, Panama City
Republic of Panama

 Panama Ship Registry
 @ShipPanama

#SteeringYourWay