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IMO UPDATE:

MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE (MSC 110). MEETING SUMMARY

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SUMMARY OF 110TH SESSION OF MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE (MSC)

The Maritime Safety Committee meets for its 110th session at IMO Headquarters in London (in-person with hybrid participation) from 18-27 June 2025. This notice is prepared based on information available about the MSC 110th meeting in the IMO website.

Amendments to mandatory instruments

The Committee is expected to consider, with a view to adoption, draft amendments to several mandatory instruments, including draft amendments to: SOLAS chapter II-1 to include a

a new definition of "gaseous fuel" in addition to the existing definition of "low-flashpoint fuel"; SOLAS chapter V concerning pilot transfer arrangements, the IMSBC Code, and the IGC Code.

Development of a goal-based instrument for Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS)

Taking into account the information shared during the symposium co-organized by IMO and Norway on 17 June, the Committee will consider the report of the MASS

Correspondence Group and will establish a MASS Working Group. It is expected to progress the finalization of several chapters of the draft MASS Code.

Development of a GHG safety regulatory framework

The Committee will continue its work to develop a safety regulatory framework to support the reduction of GHG emissions from ships using new technologies and alternative fuels, and is expected to:

- outline a list of priorities as a guide to instruct the appropriate sub-committees to progress the work on specific identified alternative fuels or new technologies;
- consider the implementation of the "one ship, one code" policy in the context of potential regulatory challenges faced by gas carriers using alternative low-flashpoint fuels that are not carried as cargo; and
- consider the proposed revision of the IMO's Code of Safety for Nuclear Merchant Ships and the further cooperation with IAEA and other relevant IMO bodies.

Matters related to the International Safety Management Code

The Committee will consider several matters related to the International Safety Management Code, including: the proposal for a new output on the review of the Code; the outcome of the considerations on violence and harassment by the Joint ILO/IMO Working Group; and

recommendations emanating from the Study on the effectiveness and implementation of the ISM Code. In addition, proposals concerning the challenges with the implementation and enforcement of seafarers' hours of work and rest will also be considered.

Cyber risk management and enhancing maritime security

The Committee will consider further steps (e.g. cybersecurity standards) to enhance maritime cybersecurity.

Discussions will cover the use of international maritime information-sharing centres to enhance maritime security.

Piracy and armed robbery against ships

The Committee will hear an update on developments related to piracy and armed robbery against ships. An overview of 2024 piracy reports show a slight decrease in cases, compared to 2023. In 2024, 146 incidents were reported to IMO (attempted and occurred) compared to 150 in 2023 (3% drop, globally).

Most affected areas were the Straits of Malacca and Singapore area (91), Indian Ocean (19),

West Africa (17), South China Sea (10), Arabian Sea (7), followed by South America (Caribbean) (1) and South America (Atlantic) (1).

The number of reported incidents has picked back up in the first part of 2025, with 109 reported incidents between 1 January and 17 June 2025.

The Committee will discuss further actions to address these developments.

Reports of Sub-Committees

The Committee will consider the reports from the following Sub-Committees and take relevant decisions:

- **Sub-Committee on carriage of cargoes and containers (CCC 10)**

The Committee will consider a draft resolution on Revised Recommendations for Entering Enclosed Spaces Aboard Ships, with a view to its adoption.

- **Sub-Committee on navigation, communications and search and rescue (NCSR 12, urgent matters)**

The Committee is expected to approve draft amendments to SOLAS regulations concerning the requirement for dissemination of maritime safety information and search and rescue-related information through all operational recognized mobile satellite services.

The Committee is also expected to approve draft amendments to SOLAS chapter V and the appendix to introduce the VHF Data Exchange System (VDES) and consequential amendments to existing instruments, including the 1994 and 2000 HSC Codes.

- **Sub-Committee on ship systems and equipment (SSE 11)**

The Committee will consider draft amendments to the Life Saving Appliances (LSA) Code, regarding design of the arrangements for the simulated launch of free-fall lifeboats; as well as issues related to unified interpretations.

- **Sub-Committee on human element, training and watchkeeping (HTW 11)**

The Committee will consider a road map, alternative to the road map prepared by the Sub-Committee, to expedite the completion of the comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and Code and discuss a course of action concerning the communication of information provisions (STCW regulation I/7) and their relationship with the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS).

- **Ship design and construction (SDC 11)**

The Committee will discuss, among other issues, the scope of the ongoing revision of the Interim Guidelines on Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP); and the matter related to the unified interpretation of the provisions in SOLAS regarding emergency escape trunks.

Amendments adopted to mandatory instruments and Codes

Resolutions (the numbering is provisional) are published as annexes to the MSC 110 Report (WP 1) and are available once finalized by the IMO

Secretariat, on IMODOCS and on the IMO website.
The resolution number have yet to be finalised.

Amendments to Mandatory Instruments adopted by MSC 110	
Resolution Reference	Contents
MSC (...) 110	Amendments to chapters II II-1, II-2 and V of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974;
MSC (...) 110	Amendments to the 1994 International Code of Safety for High-Speed Craft (1994 HSC Code)
MSC (...) 110	Amendments to the 2000 International Code of Safety for High-Speed Craft (2000 HSC Code).
MSC (...) 110	Amendments to the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes Code (IMSBC Code).

Other resolutions adopted by MSC 110

Resolutions (the numbering is provisional) are published as annexes to the MSC 110 Report (WP 1) and are available once finalized by the IMO on IMODOCS and on the IMO website. Date of adoption is 27 June 2025.

Entry into force is either on adoption date or as specified in the Resolution.
The resolution number have yet to be finalised.

Other resolutions adopted by MSC 110	
Resolution Reference	Contents
MSC (...) 110	Accessibility of information on seafarer medical certificates and medical practitioners recognized for the purpose of conducting seafarer medical examinations
MSC (...) 110	Performance standards for pilot transfer arrangements
MSC (...) 110	Amendments to The Code Of Safety For Special Purpose Ships, 2008 (2008 SPS Code)
MSC (...) 110	Encouragement Of Maritime Information Sharing Through The Use Of National And Regional Maritime Information-sharing Centres To Enhance Maritime Safety And Security
MSC (...) 110	Amendments To The Revised Recommendation On Testing Of Life-saving Appliances (Resolution MSC.81 (70))
MSC (...) 110	Revised Recommendations For Entering Enclosed Spaces Aboard Ships

Circulars adopted by MSC 110

Circulars will be available on IMODOCS once the MSC 110 report (WP 1) is finalized by the IMO Secretariat.

Adoption date is 27 June 2025. Specific application dates may be specified in the Circulars. The circular references have yet to be finalised

Circulars adopted by MSC 110

Unified Interpretation

MSC.1/Circ.[...]	MSC circular on Unified interpretation of SOLAS regulation II-1/12.6.2 (remotely operated valve)
MSC.1/Circ.[1693]	MSC circular on Unified interpretations of paragraphs 6.1.1.3 and 6.1.2.2 of the LSA Code, related to the launching of rescue boats
MSC.1/Circ[1694]	MSC circular on Unified interpretations of SOLAS chapter II- 2, relating to extinguishing media containing PFOS; and regulation 7.9.4 of the 1994 and 2000 HSC Codes, relating to fire-extinguishing media restrictions, with the effective date of 1 January 2026
MSC.1/Circ[1695]	MSC circular on Unified interpretation of the FSS Code, related to acceptable spacings of combined smoke and heat detectors, with the effective date of 1 January 2026
MSC.1/Circ.[1696]	MSC circular on Unified interpretation of SOLAS regulation II-1/3-13.2.4, related to documentation of load testing and thorough examination for existing noncertified lifting appliances

Others

MSC.1/Circ.1502/Rev.1	MSC circular on Revised guidance on pressure testing of boundaries of cargo oil tanks under direction of the master
MSC.1/Circ.1628/Rev.4	Revised standardized life-saving appliance evaluation and test report forms (personal life saving appliances) MSC circular amending MSC.1/Circ1628/rev.3 on Revised standardized lifesaving appliance evaluation and test report forms (personal life-saving appliances), in conjunction with the adoption of the associated draft amendments to resolution MSC.81(70)
MSC.1/Circ.[...]	MSC circular on Required pilot transfer arrangements for pilots and other personnel
MSC.1/Circ.[...]	MSC circular on Voluntary early implementation of the amendments to SOLAS regulation V/23 on pilot transfer arrangements
MSC.1/Circ.1266/Rev.1	MSC circular on Carriage of dangerous goods
MSC.1/Circ.1264/Rev.1	MSC circular on Recommendations on the safe use of pesticides in ships applicable to the fumigation of cargo holds
MSC.1/Circ.1358/Rev.1	MSC circular on Recommendations on the safe use of pesticides in ships

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Circulars adopted by MSC 110	
MSC.1/Circ.1395/Rev.7	MSC circular on Lists of solid bulk cargoes for which a fixed gas fire extinguishing system may be exempted or for which a fixed gas fire extinguishing system is ineffective
MSC.1/Circ.1601/Rev.2	Revised industry counter piracy guidance
MSC.1/Circ.[...]	Escape arrangements from the lower part of machinery spaces (SOLAS regulations II-2/13.4.1 and 13.4.2) –(pragmatic approach during PSC inspections)
MSC.1/Circ.1164/Rev.30	Promulgation of information related to reports of independent evaluation submitted by Parties to the 1978 STCW Convention confirmed by the Maritime Safety Committee to have communicated information which demonstrates that Parties are giving full and complete effect to the relevant provisions of the Convention
MSC.1/Circ.797/Rev.42	List of competent persons maintained by the Secretary-General pursuant to section A-I/7 of the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Code
MSC.1/Circ.1086/Rev.1	Revised Code of practice for atmospheric oil mist detectors
MSC.8/Circ.[3]	Rules of Procedure of the Maritime Safety Committee
MSC.1/Circ.1587/Rev.1	Procedural aspects related to the drafting of amendments to safety-related IMO conventions, other than the 1974 SOLAS Convention, and related mandatory instruments
Guidelines	
MSC.1/Circ.[1691]	MSC circular on Interim guidelines for emergency towing arrangements on ships other than tankers
MSC.1/Circ.1175/Rev.2	MSC circular on Revised guidance on shipboard towing and mooring equipment
MSC.1/Circ.1255/Rev.1	MSC circular on Revised guidelines for owners/operators on preparing emergency towing procedures
MSC.1/Circ.1502/Rev.1	Revised guidance on pressure testing of boundaries of cargo oil tanks under direction of the master
MSC.1/Circ.1331/Rev.1	MSC circular on Revised guidelines for construction, installation, maintenance and inspection/survey of means of embarkation and disembarkation
MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.15/Rev.3	Revision of the Guidelines for the development, review and validation of model courses (MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.15/Rev.2)
STCW.7/Circ.[25]	Generic interim guidelines on training for seafarers on ships using alternative fuels and new technologies and the associated STCW.7 circular and invite MEPC 84 to note this action
MSC.1/Circ.1205/Rev.1	Revised guidelines for developing operation and maintenance manuals for lifeboat systems (MSC.1/Circ.1205/Rev.1)

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