



MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE SHIPPING CIRCULAR NO. 11 OF 2022

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Applicable to: Shipowners, ship managers, operators and masters of Singapore registered ships.

PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO) VOLUNTARY OBSERVING SHIPS (VOS) SCHEME

1. This circular informs the shipping community on the updates to the participation in the WMO Voluntary Observing Ships Scheme, to provide ship-based marine meteorological and oceanographic observations.
2. The ship-based meteorological reports¹ provide vital real-time feedback on ocean weather conditions to weather forecasters who use the data to improve the quality of the forecasts and warnings issued through, for example, the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) for mariners at sea. The ship-based meteorological reports, therefore, form an important element in ensuring the safety of ships, their cargoes and crews.
3. The shipping community is encouraged to support the WMO/IOC marine meteorological and oceanographic observations and their National Meteorological Service (NMS), by offering ships to participate in the WMO/IOC Marine observations programmes.
4. More information on the VOS scheme can be referenced to Singapore's national authority on weather and climate, the Meteorological Service Singapore (MSS)'s website at <http://www.weather.gov.sg/weather-marine-shipping-bulletin> or the Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology's website at <https://www.ocean-ops.org/sot/vos/> referred in MSC.1/Circ.1293/Rev.1, as approved by the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization at its ninety-ninth session.

¹ The ship-based marine meteorological and oceanographic observations programmes (Ship Observations Team – SOT) operates under the auspices of the Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM), which was formed in 1999 through a merger of the marine activities of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.

5. Queries relating to this circular should be directed to email: Ong_Chin_Hong@nea.gov.sg, NEA_MSS_Engage@nea.gov.sg or Shipping@mpa.gov.sg .

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