



MPA
SINGAPORE

**MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE
SHIPPING CIRCULAR
NO. 10 OF 2023**

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29 August 2023

Applicable to: Shipowners, ship managers, operators, agents, recognised organisations, surveyors, masters and crew of Singapore-registered ships

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 107TH SESSION OF THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE (MSC) OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

1. This circular informs the shipping community of the resolutions adopted by the MSC for the shipping community to prepare for the implementation of these resolutions.
2. The details of the resolutions can be found in the reports of MSC and is available on the [MPA website](#).
3. The resolutions adopted by MSC 107 include the following:
 - a. **[RESOLUTION MSC.532\(107\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974**

The resolution adopts several amendments to SOLAS and includes the following: (i) Regulations II-1/3-13 and II-1/2 are amended to require relevant on-board lifting appliances and anchor-handling winches (OLAW) to be designed, constructed, installed and maintained in accordance with SOLAS requirements; (ii) Regulation II-2/10 is amended to prohibit the use of firefighting foams containing perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) to minimise the impact of fire-extinguishing media that are detrimental to the environment; (iii) Regulations V/18 and V/19 are amended to include the mandatory carriage requirements of electronic inclinometers for containerships and bulk carriers of 3,000 gross tonnage and upwards; (iv) Chapter XIV is amended to mandate navigation and voyage planning requirements to certain non-SOLAS ships operating in polar waters; and (v) the appendix (Certificates) of the SOLAS Convention is amended accordingly to reflect the amendments. The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2026**.

- b. **[RESOLUTION MSC.533\(107\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE PROTOCOL OF 1978 RELATING TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974**

The resolution adopts the amendment to the appendix (Certificate) of the 1978 SOLAS Protocol. The existing form of Safety Equipment Certificate for Cargo Ships is amended by inserting the new entry "Containership" after "Gas carrier". The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2026**.

- c. **[RESOLUTION MSC.534\(107\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE PROTOCOL OF 1988 RELATING TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974**

The resolution adopts the amendment to the appendix (Certificate) of the 1988 SOLAS Protocol. The existing form of Safety Equipment Certificate for Cargo Ships and form of Safety Certificate for Cargo Ships are amended by inserting the new entry "Containership" after "Gas carrier". The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2026**.

- d. **[RESOLUTION MSC.535\(107\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCE CODE (LSA CODE)**

The resolution adopts amendments to the International Life-Saving Appliance Code (LSA Code) concerning the ventilation requirements which are to be applied to totally enclosed lifeboats installed on or after 1 January 2029. The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2026**.

- e. **[RESOLUTION MSC.536\(107\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CODE OF SAFETY FOR HIGH-SPEED CRAFT, 1994 (1994 HSC CODE)**

The resolution adopts amendments to chapter 7 (Fire safety) concerning the prohibition of fire-fighting foams containing perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), and to annex 1 (Form of High-speed Craft Safety Certificate and Record of Equipment) concerning type of immersion suits of the 1994 HSC Codes. The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2026**.

- f. **[RESOLUTION MSC.537\(107\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CODE OF SAFETY FOR HIGH-SPEED CRAFT, 2000 (2000 HSC CODE)**

The resolution adopts amendments to chapter 7 (Fire safety) concerning the prohibition of fire-fighting foams containing perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), and to annex 1 (Form of High-speed Craft Safety Certificate and Record of Equipment) concerning type of immersion suits

of the 2000 HSC Codes. The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2026**.

- g. **[RESOLUTION MSC.538\(107\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CODE FOR SHIPS OPERATING IN POLAR WATERS (POLAR CODE)**

The resolution adopts amendments to the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code) to impose safety measures for safe navigation and voyage planning for non-SOLAS ships operating in polar waters. The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2026**.

- h. **[RESOLUTION MSC.539\(107\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SOLID BULK CARGOES (IMSBC) CODE**

The resolution adopts amendment to the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes Code (IMSBC Code), as part of its 2-yearly regular amendment to update the IMSBC Code. The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2025**.

- i. **[RESOLUTION MSC.540\(107\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS (STCW), 1978**

The resolution adopts amendment to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW Convention) to allow the use of electronic certificates of seafarers, taking into account the need to provide a timely response to the global digitalization trend, as well as a solution for the management and control of seafarers' certificates. The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2025**.

- j. **[RESOLUTION MSC.541\(107\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO PART A OF THE SEAFARERS' TRAINING, CERTIFICATION, AND WATCHKEEPING (STCW) CODE**

The resolution adopts amendment to the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code (STCW Code) to allow the use of electronic certificates of seafarers. The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2025**.

- k. **[RESOLUTION MSC.542\(107\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE OF SAFETY FOR SPECIAL PURPOSE SHIPS, 1983 (1983 SPS CODE)**

The resolution adopts the consequential amendments to the form of the Record of Equipment for the Code of Safety for Special Purpose Ships, 1983 (1983 SPS Code), emanating from the amendments to the 1974

SOLAS Convention concerning types of immersion suits. The amendments will take effect on **1 January 2026**.

l. **[RESOLUTION MSC.543\(107\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE OF SAFETY FOR SPECIAL PURPOSE SHIPS, 2008 (2008 SPS CODE)**

The resolution adopts the consequential amendments to the form of the Record of Equipment for the Code of Safety for Special Purpose Ships, 2008 (2008 SPS Code), emanating from the amendments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention concerning types of immersion suits. The amendments will take effect on **1 January 2026**.

m. **[RESOLUTION MSC.544\(107\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE REVISED RECOMMENDATION ON TESTING OF LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES (RESOLUTION MSC.81(70))**

The resolution adopts the consequential amendments to the Revised recommendation on testing of life-saving appliances (resolution MSC.81(70)) for totally enclosed lifeboats emanating from the amendments to the LSA Code. The amendment also included the revised thermal performance of immersion suits and updating of reference to an ISO standard on personal flotation devices. Life-saving appliances installed **on or after 1 January 2029** shall conform to the amended prototype tests.

n. **[RESOLUTION MSC.545\(107\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT OF MOBILE OFFSHORE DRILLING UNITS, 1979 (1979 MODU CODE)**

The resolution adopts the amendments to the Code for the Construction and Equipment of Mobile Offshore Drilling Units, 1979 (1979 MODU Code) to prohibit materials containing asbestos to be installed. This is in accordance with regulation II-1/3-5 of the SOLAS, 1974, where new installation of materials which contain asbestos is already prohibited on all ships but did not include MODUs. The amendments will take effect on **1 January 2024**.

o. **[RESOLUTION MSC.546\(107\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT OF MOBILE OFFSHORE DRILLING UNITS, 1989 (1989 MODU CODE)**

The resolution adopts the amendments to the Code for the Construction and Equipment of Mobile Offshore Drilling Units, 1989 (1989 MODU Code) to prohibit materials containing asbestos to be installed. This is in accordance with regulation II-1/3-5 of the SOLAS, 1974, where new installation of materials which contain asbestos is already prohibited on all ships but did not include MODUs. The amendments will take effect on **1 January 2024**.

- p. **[RESOLUTION MSC.547\(107\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT OF MOBILE OFFSHORE DRILLING UNITS, 2009 (2009 MODU CODE)**

The resolution adopts the amendments to the Code for the Construction and Equipment of Mobile Offshore Drilling Units, 2009 (2009 MODU Code) to prohibit materials containing asbestos to be installed. This is in accordance with regulation II-1/3-5 of the SOLAS, 1974, where new installation of materials which contain asbestos is already prohibited on all ships but did not include MODUs. The amendments will take effect on **1 January 2024**.

- q. **[RESOLUTION MSC.548\(107\)](#) – INTERNATIONAL CODE OF SAFETY FOR DIVING OPERATIONS, 2023 (2023 DIVING CODE)**

The resolution adopts the International Code of Safety for Diving Operations, 2023 (2023 Diving Code) as the recognised international provisions for the design, construction and survey of diving systems, diving units and hyperbaric evacuation systems. The 2023 Diving Code should be applied to ships of not less than 500 gross tonnes that have a diving system installed **on or after 1 January 2024**.

4. Queries relating to this circular should be directed to email shipping@mpa.gov.sg.

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DIRECTOR OF MARINE
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