



MPA
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MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE
SHIPPING CIRCULAR
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Applicable to: Shipowners, ship managers, operators, agents, surveyors and masters of Singapore-registered ships

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 104TH AND 105TH 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 and serves to prepare the shipping community 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 104 include the following:
 - a. **RESOLUTION MSC.491(104) – AMENDMENTS TO THE PROTOCOL OF 1988 RELATING TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON LOAD LINES, 1966 (1988 LOAD LINES PROTOCOL)**

The resolution adopts amendments to chapters II and III of annex I of Annex B to the 1988 Load Lines Protocol. The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2024**.

- b. **RESOLUTION MSC.492(104) – AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CODE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT OF SHIPS CARRYING LIQUEFIED GASES IN BULK (IGC CODE)**

The resolution adopts amendments to chapter 2 of the IGC Code on the application provision of identical draft amendments to the 1988 Load Lines Protocol. The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2024**.

- c. **[RESOLUTION MSC.493\(104\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR SHIPBORNE SIMPLIFIED VOYAGE DATA RECORDERS (S-VDRs) (RESOLUTION MSC.163(78), AS AMENDED)**

The resolution adopts amendments to the performance standards for shipborne simplified voyage data recorders (S-VDRs). The revised performance standards will become effective on **1 July 2022**.

- d. **[RESOLUTION MSC.494\(104\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR SHIPBORNE VOYAGE DATA RECORDERS (VDRs) (RESOLUTION MSC.333(90))**

The resolution adopts amendments Amendments to the Performance standards for shipborne voyage data recorders (VDRs). The revised performance standards will become effective on **1 July 2022**.

4. The resolutions adopted by MSC 105 include the following:

- a. **[RESOLUTION MSC.496\(105\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974**

The resolution adopts amendments to chapters II-1, III, IV and V of, and the appendix (Certificates) of the annex to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended, concerning the modernisation of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS). The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2024**.

In consideration that the forms of certificates and the related records of equipment were reproduced as consolidated versions in resolution MSC.496(105), incorporating the amendments to SOLAS, 1974 adopted by resolution MSC.456(101) which will also enter into force on 1 January 2024, the resolution MSC.456(101) is consequentially revoked upon adoption of the resolution MSC.496(105) by MSC 105.

- b. **[RESOLUTION MSC.497\(105\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE PROTOCOL OF 1988 RELATING TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974**

The resolution adopts amendments to the appendix to the annex to the 1988 SOLAS Protocol, concerning the modernisation of the GMDSS. The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2024**.

- c. **[RESOLUTION MSC.498\(105\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CODE OF SAFETY FOR HIGH-SPEED CRAFT, 1994 (1994 HSC CODE)**

The resolution adopts amendments to chapters 8 (Life-saving appliances and arrangements) and 14 (Radiocommunications), as well

as the Record of Equipment for High-Speed Craft Safety Certificate, of the International Code of Safety for High-Speed Craft (1994 HSC Codes), concerning the modernisation of the GMDSS. The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2024**.

- d. **[RESOLUTION MSC.499\(105\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CODE OF SAFETY FOR HIGH-SPEED CRAFT, 2000 (2000 HSC CODE)**

The resolution adopts amendments to chapters 8 (Life-saving appliances and arrangements) and 14 (Radiocommunications), as well as the Record of Equipment for High-Speed Craft Safety Certificate, of the International Code of Safety for High-Speed Craft (2000 HSC Codes), concerning the modernisation of the GMDSS. The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2024**.

- e. **[RESOLUTION MSC.500\(105\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SOLID BULK CARGOES (IMSBC) CODE**

The resolution adopts the amendments (06-21) to the IMSBC Code as part of its regular 2-yearly review and include changes of the definition of group A cargoes and reclassification of ammonium nitrate-based fertilizer. The amendments will enter into force on **1 December 2023**.

- f. **[RESOLUTION MSC.501\(105\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME DANGEROUS GOODS (IMDG) CODE**

The resolution adopts the amendments (41-22) to the IMDG Code as part of its regular 2-yearly review and include changes on portable tanks with shells made of fibre-reinforced plastics (FRPs) for multimodal transportation of dangerous goods. The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2024**.

- g. **[RESOLUTION MSC.502\(105\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE OF SAFETY FOR SPECIAL PURPOSE SHIPS, 1983 (1983 SPS CODE)**

The resolution adopts the amendments to the Form of Safety Certificate for Special Purpose Ships under the 1983 SPS Code, concerning the modernisation of the GMDSS. The amendments will become effective on **1 January 2024**, in conjunction with the entry into force of the amendments to the SOLAS Convention adopted by resolution MSC.496(105).

- h. **[RESOLUTION MSC.503\(105\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE OF SAFETY FOR SPECIAL PURPOSE SHIPS, 2008 (2008 SPS CODE)**

The resolution adopts the amendments to the Form of Safety Certificate for Special Purpose Ships under the 2008 SPS Codes, concerning the modernisation of the GMDSS. The amendments will become effective

on **1 January 2024**, in conjunction with the entry into force of the amendments to the SOLAS Convention adopted by resolution MSC.496(105).

i. **[RESOLUTION MSC.504\(105\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT OF MOBILE OFFSHORE DRILLING UNITS, 1979 (1979 MODU CODE)**

The resolution adopts the amendments to chapters 10 (Life-saving appliances and equipment) and 11 (Radiocommunication and installations/navigation) of the 1979 MODU Code, concerning the modernisation of the GMDSS, in conjunction with the adoption of the related amendments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention. The amendments will become effective on **1 January 2024**, in conjunction with the entry into force of the amendments to the SOLAS Convention adopted by resolution MSC.496(105).

j. **[RESOLUTION MSC.505\(105\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT OF MOBILE OFFSHORE DRILLING UNITS, 1989 (1989 MODU CODE)**

The resolution adopts the amendments to chapters 10 (Life-saving appliances and equipment) and 11 (Radiocommunication and installations/navigation) of the 1989 MODU Code, concerning the modernisation of the GMDSS, in conjunction with the adoption of the related amendments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention. The amendments will become effective on **1 January 2024**, in conjunction with the entry into force of the amendments to the SOLAS Convention adopted by resolution MSC.496(105).

k. **[RESOLUTION MSC.506\(105\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT OF MOBILE OFFSHORE DRILLING UNITS, 2009 (2009 MODU CODE)**

The resolution adopts the amendments to chapters 10 (Life-saving appliances and equipment) and 11 (Radiocommunication and installations/navigation) of the 2009 MODU Code, concerning the modernisation of the GMDSS, in conjunction with the adoption of the related amendments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention. The amendments will become effective on **1 January 2024**, in conjunction with the entry into force of the amendments to the SOLAS Convention adopted by resolution MSC.496(105).

l. **[RESOLUTION MSC.507\(105\)](#) – SYSTEM PERFORMANCE STANDARD FOR THE PROMULGATION AND COORDINATION OF MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION USING HIGH-FREQUENCY NARROW-BAND DIRECT-PRINTING**

The resolution adopts the revised system performance standard for the promulgation and coordination of maritime safety information using high-

frequency narrow-band direct-printing, The amendments will become effective on **1 January 2024**, in conjunction with the entry into force of amendments to the SOLAS Convention adopted by resolution MSC.496(105).

- m. **[RESOLUTION MSC.508\(105\)](#) – PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR THE RECEPTION OF MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION AND SEARCH AND RESCUE RELATED INFORMATION BY MF (NAVTEX) AND HF**

The resolution adopts the revised performance standards for the reception of maritime safety information and search and rescue related information by MF (NAVTEX) and HF. The revised performance standards will become effective on **1 January 2024**.

- n. **[RESOLUTION MSC.510\(105\)](#) – PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE RADAR TRANSPONDERS**

The resolution adopts the performance standards for search and rescue radar transponders. This resolution supersedes resolutions A.530(13) and A.802(19), as amended, and will become effective from **1 January 2024**.

- o. **[RESOLUTION MSC.511\(105\)](#) – PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR SHIPBORNE VHF RADIO INSTALLATIONS CAPABLE OF VOICE COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL SELECTIVE CALLING**

The resolution adopts revised Performance standards for shipborne VHF radio installations capable of voice communication and digital selective calling and will become effective from **1 January 2024**.

- p. **[RESOLUTION MSC.512\(105\)](#) – PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR SHIPBORNE MF AND MF/HF RADIO INSTALLATIONS CAPABLE OF VOICE COMMUNICATION, DIGITAL SELECTIVE CALLING AND RECEPTION OF MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION AND SEARCH AND RESCUE RELATED INFORMATION**

The resolution adopts the revised Performance standards for shipborne MF and MF/HF radio installations capable of voice communication, digital selective calling and reception of maritime safety information and search and rescue related information and will become effective from **1 January 2024**.

- q. **[RESOLUTION MSC.513\(105\)](#) – PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR INMARSAT-C SHIP EARTH STATIONS CAPABLE OF TRANSMITTING AND RECEIVING DIRECT-PRINTING COMMUNICATIONS**

The resolution adopts the revised Performance standards for Inmarsat-C ship earth stations capable of transmitting and receiving direct-printing communications and will become effective from **1 January 2024**.

r. **[RESOLUTION MSC.514\(105\)](#) – GUIDELINES FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF FALSE DISTRESS ALERTS**

The resolution adopts the revised Guidelines for the avoidance of false distress alerts and supersedes resolution A.814(19), as from **1 January 2024**.

s. **[RESOLUTION MSC.515\(105\)](#) – PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR SURVIVAL CRAFT PORTABLE TWO-WAY VHF RADIOTELEPHONE APPARATUS**

The resolution adopts revised performance standards for survival craft portable two-way VHF radiotelephone apparatus and will become effective from **1 January 2024**.

t. **[RESOLUTION MSC.516\(105\)](#) – AMENDMENTS TO THE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR RADIOCOMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT (RESOLUTION MSC.80(70))**

The resolution adopts amendments to the Recommendation on Performance standards for on-scene (aeronautical) portable two-way VHF radiotelephone apparatus and the Recommendation on Performance standards for on-scene (aeronautical) two-way VHF radiotelephone apparatus for fixed installations and will become effective from **1 January 2024**.

u. **[RESOLUTION MSC.517\(105\)](#) – PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR A SHIPBORNE INTEGRATED COMMUNICATION SYSTEM (ICS) WHEN USED IN THE GLOBAL MARITIME DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM (GMDSS)**

The resolution adopts the performance standards for a shipborne integrated communication system (ICS) when used in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) and will become effective from **1 January 2024**.

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

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