



MPA
SINGAPORE

**MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE
SHIPPING CIRCULAR
NO. 4 OF 2023**

MPA Shipping Division
460 Alexandra Road
21st Storey mTower
Singapore 119963
Fax: 6375 6231
<http://www.mpa.gov.sg>

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

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW CHAPTER XV OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA (SOLAS), 1974, AS AMENDED, AND THE INTERNATIONAL CODE OF SAFETY FOR SHIPS CARRYING INDUSTRIAL PERSONNEL (IP CODE)

1. The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization, at its 106th session adopted Resolution MSC.521(106) for a new chapter XV “*Safety measures for ships carrying industrial personnel*” to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS 74), as amended. The resolution by which it adopted chapter XV of the SOLAS 74, also made the provisions of the International Code of Safety for Ships Carrying Industrial Personnel (IP Code) mandatory, as adopted in Resolution MSC.527(106). The new SOLAS Chapter XV and the IP Code will enter into force on 1 July 2024.

2. The new SOLAS Chapter XV and the IP Code aims to address the safe carriage of industrial personnel on ships and for ensuring their safety during personnel transfer operations to and from other ships and/or offshore facilities. In consideration that existing ships constructed before the entry into force of the new SOLAS chapter XV and the IP code could have complied with Resolution MSC.418(97) “*Interim Recommendations on the Safe Carriage of more than 12 Industrial Personnel on Board Vessels Engaged on International Voyages*”, provisions are contained within the new SOLAS Chapter XV for these ships to be certified to the IP Code by complying with only certain parts of the IP Code.

3. As required by the new SOLAS Chapter XV/3, cargo ships constructed before 1 July 2024, authorised by the Administration to carry more than 12 industrial personnel in accordance with Resolution MSC.418(97) shall comply with regulations III/1, III/2 (except for paragraph 2.1.7), IV/7 and IV/8 of the IP Code by the first intermediate or renewal survey, whichever occurs first, after 1 July 2024.

4. Similarly, for high-speed cargo craft constructed before 1 July 2024 and authorised by the Administration to carry more than 12 industrial personnel in accordance with Resolution MSC.418(97), shall comply with regulations III/1, III/2 (except for paragraph 2.1.7), V/7 and V/8 of the IP Code by the third periodical or first renewal survey, whichever occurs first, after 1 July 2024.

5. For Singapore Registered Ships that have complied with Resolution MSC.418(97) and are certificated to the Code of Safety for Special Purpose Ships, 2008 (2008 SPS Code) before 1 July 2024, they are considered as eligible for certification to the IP Code by meeting only the requirements of regulations III/1, III/2 (except for paragraph 2.1.7), V/7 and V/8 of the IP Code.

6. Singapore Registered Ships that meet the conditions in paragraph 5 above and wishes to continue to carry industrial personnel shall be certificated to the IP Code by the first intermediate or renewal survey, whichever occurs first, after 1 July 2024 for cargo ships, and by the third periodical or first renewal survey, whichever occurs first, after 1 July 2024 for high-speed cargo craft. Shipowners are reminded that the full requirements of the IP Code shall apply if the ships are not certificated to the IP Code by the above timeline.

7. For cargo ships and high-speed cargo craft, irrespective of date of construction, which prior to the 1 July 2024 have not been authorised by the Administration to carry more than 12 industrial personnel based on Resolution MSC.418(97), shall comply with the full requirements of the IP Code prior to the carriage of more than 12 industrial personnel on board.

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

CHEAH AUN AUN
DIRECTOR OF MARINE
MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE