



MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE
SHIPPING CIRCULAR
NO. 8 of 2026

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27 August 2026

Applicable to: Shipowners, Ship Managers, Operators, Masters, Crew Members and Class Surveyors of Singapore-registered ships

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 111TH SESSION OF THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE (MSC 111) OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)

1. This circular informs the shipping community of the resolutions adopted by MSC 111¹ and urges the shipping community to prepare for the implementation of these resolutions.

2. **MSC 111** adopted the following mandatory resolutions:

- a. [Resolution MSC.583\(111\)](#) – **Amendments to Chapters IV and V, and the Appendix of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974**

This resolution adopts amendments to Chapters IV and V, and the Appendix of SOLAS 1974, regarding the dissemination of MSI and SAR related information via the Enhanced Group Call service, using all operational recognized mobile satellite services; and introduction of the carriage requirements, surveys and performance standards of the shipborne VHF data exchange system (VDES).

*The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2028** and will be given effect through the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Regulations.*

- b. [Resolution MSC.584\(111\)](#) – **Amendments to the International Code on the Enhanced Programme of Inspections during Surveys of Bulk Carriers and Oil Tankers, 2011 (2011 ESP Code)**

¹ MSC 111 was held from 13 May 2026 to 22 May 2026.

This resolution adopts amendments to the 2011 ESP Code to introduce Remote Inspection Technique (RIT) to assist the close-up survey as required during surveys.

*The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2028** and will be given effect through the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Regulations.*

- c. [Resolution MSC.585\(111\)](#) – **Amendments to the International Code of Safety for High-Speed Craft, 1994 (1994 HSC Code)**

This resolution adopts consequential amendments to the 1994 HSC Code related to the introduction of the carriage requirements, surveys and performance standards of the shipborne VHF data exchange system (VDES) in SOLAS 1974.

*The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2028** and will be given effect through the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Regulations.*

- d. [Resolution MSC.586\(111\)](#) – **Amendments to the International Code of Safety for High-Speed Craft, 2000 (2000 HSC Code)**

This resolution adopts consequential amendments to the 2000 HSC Code related to the introduction of the carriage requirements, surveys and performance standards of the shipborne VHF data exchange system (VDES) in SOLAS 1974.

*The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2028** and will be given effect through the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Regulations.*

- e. [Resolution MSC.587\(111\)](#) – **Amendments to the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code**

This resolution adopts amendments to the IMDG Code as part of the regular process to continuously update the IMDG Code every two years. This will be the 43-26 amendment of the IMDG Code.

*The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2028** and will be given effect through the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Regulations.*

- f. [Resolution MSC.588\(111\)](#) – **Amendments to the International Code of Safety for Ships Carrying Industrial Personnel (IP Code)**

This resolution adopts amendments to Part IV of the IP Code to prescribe the mass of industrial personnel to be used in the ship stability calculation.

*The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2028** and will be given effect through the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Regulations.*

- g. [Resolution MSC.589\(111\)](#) – **Amendments to the International Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code**

This resolution adopts amendments to the LSA Code regarding the general requirements for lifejackets, lifeboat fittings and ventilation; and testing of the release system of free-fall lifeboat under load without launching into the water. The amendments also include the speed of lowering a fully loaded survival craft or rescue boat for launching appliances installed on or after 1 January 2026, and to allow, under certain conditions, for the use of launching appliances without stored mechanical power for rescue boats.

*The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2028** and will be given effect through the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Regulations.*

- h. [Resolution MSC.590\(111\)](#) – **Amendments to the Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear (Resolution MSC.402(96))**

This resolution adopts consequential amendments to Resolution MSC.402(96) on the annual thorough examination and operational testing requirements, in relation to the amendments to the LSA Code as adopted by resolution MSC.589(111), on the testing of the release system of free-fall lifeboat under load without launching into the water.

*The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2028** and will be given effect through the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Regulations.*

- i. [Resolution MSC.591\(111\)](#) – **Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966 (1988 Load Lines Protocol)**

This resolution adopts amendments to Chapter II/25 of the 1988 Load Lines Protocol to introduce requirements for guard rails or bulwarks to be fitted around all exposed decks and all exposed sea access holes (such as edges of moonpools) accessible to the crew during navigation. This applies to ships the keels of which are laid, or which are at a similar stage of construction on or after 1 January 2028.

*The amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2028** and will be given effect through the Merchant Shipping (Load Line) Regulations.*

3. **MSC 111** also adopted the following resolutions:

- a. [Resolution MSC.582\(111\)](#) – **Actions to ensure the safety and security of navigation and of seafarers in the Arabian Sea, Sea of Oman and the Gulf region, particularly in and around the Strait of Hormuz, resulting from the unlawful activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

This resolution expresses concern on safety of navigation and to seafarers, resulting from the attacks and threats faced in the Gulf region. The resolution stresses the critical importance of maintaining the rights and freedom of navigation of commercial ships, and requests member States to facilitate the

safe evacuation of merchant ships from the high-risk and affected areas to a safe place.

- b. [Resolution MSC.509\(105\)/Rev.2](#) – **Provision of radio services for the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)**

This resolution adopts the resolution on the provision of radio services for the GMDSS, emanating from the draft amendments to the SOLAS 1974 in relation to the requirement for dissemination of maritime safety information (MSI) and SAR-related information through all operational mobile satellite services recognized by the Organization for use in the GMDSS, and revokes resolution MSC.509(105)/Rev.1.

- c. [Resolution MSC.592\(111\)](#) – **Introduction of VHF Data Exchange System (VDES) into the IMO Regulatory Framework**

This resolution adopts the resolution on the introduction of VHF Data Exchange System (VDES) into the IMO Regulatory Framework, to apply the decision that references made to the carriage and use of "automatic identification system" or "AIS" in the IMO regulatory framework should also be understood as references to the AIS component of VDES, as defined in resolution MSC.593(111) on Performance standards for shipborne VHF data exchange system (VDES).

- d. [Resolution MSC.593\(111\)](#) – **Performance standards for a shipborne VHF data exchange system (VDES)**

This resolution adopts the Performance standards for a shipborne VHF data exchange system (VDES), related to the introduction of a VHF data exchange system (VDES) as an alternative shipborne navigational equipment and system to comply with the existing requirements of the automatic identification system (AIS) under SOLAS 1974.

- e. [Resolution MSC.594\(111\)](#) – **Amendments to the Revised recommendation on testing of life-saving appliances (resolution MSC.81(70))**

This resolution adopts the Amendments to the Revised recommendation on testing of life-saving appliances (resolution MSC.81(70)), to ensure that the references contained within are kept up to date, and to take into account the amendments to the LSA Code adopted by resolution MSC.589(111) with respect to the arrangements to test the release system under load without launching the free-fall lifeboat into the water.

- f. [Resolution MSC.595\(111\)](#) – **International Code of Safety for Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS Code)**

This resolution adopts the non-mandatory MASS Code, in recognition that the instruments of the Organization currently do not adequately or fully address the safe operation of maritime autonomous surface ships (MASS), warranting the need for guidance for administrations, shipbuilders, owners,

operators, insurers and other stakeholders to design, build and operate MASS safely, in particular when they are operating jointly with conventional ships.

- g. [Resolution MSC.448\(99\)/Rev.1](#) – **Revised guidelines on the prevention of access by stowaways and the allocation of responsibilities to seek the successful resolution of stowaway cases**

This resolution adopts the Revised guidelines on the prevention of access by stowaways and the allocation of responsibilities to seek the successful resolution of stowaway cases, and revokes resolution MSC.448(99).

- h. [Resolution MSC.596\(111\)](#) – **Amendments to the Code for the Construction and Equipment of Mobile Offshore Drilling Units, 2009**

This resolution adopts the amendments to the 2009 MODU Code, in recognition that regulations 6.5.1 and 6.5.5 of the 2009 MODU Code need further clarification for the application of the provisions therein, in order to facilitate their global and consistent implementation.

- i. [Resolution MSC.597\(111\)](#) – **Revised interim recommendations for carriage of liquefied hydrogen in bulk**

This resolution adopts the Revised interim recommendations for carriage of liquefied hydrogen in bulk, and revokes resolution MSC.565(108).

- j. [Resolution MSC.598\(111\)](#) – **Revised mandatory ship reporting system In the Adriatic Sea (ADRIREP)**

This resolution adopts the revised mandatory ship reporting system In the Adriatic Sea (ADRIREP), and the said revised mandatory ship reporting system will be implemented at 0000 hours UTC on 1 December 2026.

Annex 2 to resolution MSC.139(76) will be revoked as from 0000 hours UTC on 1 December 2026.

- k. [Resolution MSC.314\(88\)/Rev.1](#) – **Revised mandatory ship reporting system "In the Sound between Denmark and Sweden" (SOUNDREP)**

This resolution adopts the revised mandatory ship reporting system "In the Sound between Denmark and Sweden" (SOUNDREP), and the said revised mandatory ship reporting system will be implemented at 0000 hours UTC on 1 December 2026.

Resolution MSC.314(88) will be revoked as from 0000 hours UTC on 1 December 2026.

- l. [Resolution MSC.332\(90\)/Rev.1](#) – **Revised mandatory ship reporting system "In the Storebælt (Great Belt) traffic area" (BELTREP)**

This resolution adopts the revised mandatory ship reporting system "In the Storebælt (Great Belt) traffic area" (BELTREP), and the said revised mandatory ship reporting system will be implemented at 0000 hours UTC on 1 December 2026.

Annex 1 to resolution MSC.63(67), and resolution MSC.332(90) will be revoked as from 0000 hours UTC on 1 December 2026.

m. **Resolution MSC.599(111) – Amendments to the Worldwide Radionavigation System (Resolution A.1046(27))**

This resolution adopts the revised "Report on the Study of a Worldwide Radionavigation System, to include relevant requirements for augmentation systems. The existing text of the annex to resolution A.1046(27) is revised in its entirety.

n. **Resolution MSC.379(93)/Rev.1 – Revised Performance standards for shipborne BeiDou Satellite Navigation System (BDS) receiver equipment**

This resolution adopts the revised Performance standards for shipborne BeiDou Satellite Navigation System (BDS) receiver equipment, in order to ensure the operational reliability of such equipment and taking into account the technological progress and experience gained.

4. Any queries relating to this circular should be directed to MPA Shipping Division via email at shipping@mpa.gov.sg.

CHEAH AUN AUN
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