



MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE
SHIPPING CIRCULAR
NO. 09 of 2024

MPA
SINGAPORE

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

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 108th SESSION OF THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE (MSC 108) OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION (IMO)

1. This circular informs the shipping community of the resolutions adopted by MSC 108¹ and urges the shipping community to prepare for the implementation of these resolutions.

2. The mandatory resolutions adopted by **MSC 108** include the following:

a. [Resolution MSC.549\(108\)](#) – **Amendments to Chapter II-1 of the International Convention for The Safety of Life at Sea, 1974**

*This resolution adopts amendments to Regulations 3-4 to add the emergency towing arrangements requirements on ships other than tankers. The amendments will enter into force on **01 January 2028** and will be given effect through amendments to the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Regulations.*

b. [Resolution MSC.550\(108\)](#) – **Amendments to Chapter II-2 and V of the International Convention for The Safety of Life at Sea, 1974**

*This resolution adopts amendments to Regulations 4, 7, 9, 20 and 23 of Chapter II-2 concerning fire protection, fire detection and fire extinction requirements; and the resolution also adopts amendments to Regulations 31 and 32 on the reporting requirements for the loss of freight containers. The amendments will enter into force on **01 January 2026** and will be given effect through amendments to the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Regulations.*

c. [Resolution MSC.551\(108\)](#) – **Amendments to International Code of Safety for Ships using Gases or other Low-flashpoint Fuels (IGF Code)**

*This resolution adopts amendments to IGF Code which includes numerous improvements based on experience gained with the code since its entry into force in 2017. The amendments will enter into force on **01 January 2026**.*

¹ The 108th session of Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 108) was held from 15 to 24 May 2024.

- d. [Resolution MSC.552\(108\)](#) – **Amendments to International Code for the Safe Carriage of Grain in Bulk (Grain Code)**

*This resolution adopts amendments to the Grain Code which introduce a new class of loading conditions for special compartments, which are defined as "specially suitable compartment, partly filled in way of the hatch opening, with ends untrimmed" and related amendments. The amendments will enter into force on **01 January 2026**.*

- e. [Resolution MSC.553\(108\)](#) – **Amendments to International Code on the Enhanced Programme of Inspections during Surveys of Bulk Carriers and Oil Tankers, 2011 (2011 ESP Code)**

*This resolution adopts amendments to the 2011 ESP Code which clarifies the role of Administrations in the approval and certification of a firm engaged in thickness measurement of hull structures. The amendments will enter into force on **01 January 2026**.*

- f. [Resolution MSC.554\(108\)](#) – **Amendments to Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code (LSA Code)**

*This resolution adopts amendments to the LSA Code on the in-water performance of SOLAS lifejackets, requirements for single fall and hook systems with on-load release capability, and the lowering speed of survival craft and rescue boats. The amendments will enter into force on **01 January 2026**.*

- g. [Resolution MSC.555\(108\)](#) – **Amendments to International Code for Fire Safety Systems (FSS Code)**

*This resolution adopts amendments to the FSS Code that relates to the amendments to SOLAS Chapter II-2 to improve fire safety requirements on new and existing Ro-Ro passenger ships. Chapter 7 and 9 of the FSS Code is amended to incorporate the requirements in relation to the water monitor and detectors using heat detectors on Ro-Ro passenger ships. The amendments will enter into force on **01 January 2026**.*

- h. [Resolution MSC.556\(108\)](#) – **Amendments to International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG Code)**

*This resolution adopts amendments to the IMDG Code as part of the regular process to continuously amend the IMDG Code every two years and produces a consolidated text of the Code every four years to keep the Code updated. This will be the 42-24 amendment of the IMDG Code. The amendments will enter into force on **01 January 2026**.*

- i. [Resolution MSC.557\(108\)](#) – **Amendments to Resolution MSC.215(82) Performance standard for protective coatings for dedicated seawater ballast tanks in all types of ships and double-side skin spaces of bulk carriers**

*This resolution adopts amendments to Resolution MSC.215(82) (Performance standard for protective coatings for dedicated seawater ballast tanks in all types of ships and double-side skin spaces of bulk carriers) to update the naming conventions for coating inspector certifications. The amendments will enter into force on **01 January 2026**.*

- j. [Resolution MSC.558\(108\)](#) – **Amendments to Resolution MSC.288(87) Performance standard for protective coatings for cargo oil tanks of crude oil tankers**

*This resolution adopts amendments to Resolution MSC.288(87) (Performance standard for protective coatings for cargo oil tanks of crude oil tankers) to update the naming conventions for coating inspector certifications. The amendments will enter into force on **01 January 2026**.*

- k. [Resolution MSC.559\(108\)](#) – **Amendments to Resolution MSC.402(96) Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear**

*This resolution adopts amendments to Resolution MSC.402(96) (Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear) on the annual thorough examination and operational testing of ventilation systems, where fitted, taking into account the amendments to the LSA Code adopted by Resolution MSC.535(107). The amendments will enter into force on **01 January 2026**.*

- l. [Resolution MSC.560\(108\)](#) – **Amendments to Part A of the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code (STCW Code)**

*This resolution adopts amendments to Part A of the STCW Code on the training provisions to prevent and respond to bullying and harassment in the maritime sector, including sexual assault and sexual harassment. The amendments will enter into force on **01 January 2026**.*

3. **MSC 108** also adopted the following resolutions:

- a. [Resolution MSC.563\(108\)](#) – **Amendments to the Revised recommendation on testing of life-saving appliances (MSC.81(70))**

*This resolution adopts amendments to the revised recommendation on testing of life-saving appliances (MSC.81(70)) as a consequential amendment to the amendments to the LSA Code by Resolution MSC.554(108) above. MSC.554(108) will enter into force on **01 January 2026**.*

- b. [Resolution MSC.530\(106\)/Rev.1](#) – **Revised Performance Standards for Electronic chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS)**

This resolution adopts the Revised Performance Standards for ECDIS to additionally facilitate a standardised digital exchange of ships' route plans with shore-based Maritime Service providers. This resolution revokes Resolution MSC.530(106).

- c. [Resolution MSC.565\(108\)](#) – **Revised Interim Recommendations for Carriage of Liquefied Hydrogen in Bulk**

This resolution adopts the Revised Interim Recommendations for Carriage of Liquefied Hydrogen in Bulk to provide recommendations to Administrations on the safe carriage of liquefied hydrogen in bulk and to

facilitate establishment of a tripartite agreement for a pilot ship, which will be developed for the research and demonstration of safe long-distance overseas carriage of liquefied hydrogen in bulk. This resolution revokes Resolution MSC.420(97).

d. **[Resolution MSC.564\(108\)](#) – Security Situation in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden resulting from Houthi attacks on Commercial Ships and Seafarers**

This resolution encourages ship operators and vessels to assess the nature and unpredictability of recent events in the Red Sea, as well as the potential of continued attacks when considering transit plans through the area.

4. Any queries relating to this circular should be directed to MPA Shipping Division via email at shipping@mpa.gov.sg.
5. Do subscribe to our Telegram channel – t.me/MPASingapore to receive the latest updates.



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