



**MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE**  
**SHIPPING CIRCULAR**  
**NO. 18 of 2023**

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

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**Applicable to:** Shipowners, ship managers, operators, masters, crew members, recognised organisations, surveyors and the shipping community

**MERCHANT SHIPPING (SAFETY CONVENTION) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2023 AND MERCHANT SHIPPING (LOAD LINE) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2023**

1. This circular informs the shipping community on the amendments to the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Regulations and Merchant Shipping (Load Line) Regulations which will come into force on 01 January 2024.
2. The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) had adopted amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), through Resolutions [MSC.456\(101\)](#), [MSC.474\(102\)](#), [MSC.482\(103\)](#), [MSC.496\(105\)](#) and [MSC.497\(105\)](#) respectively. The IMO had also adopted amendments to the Protocol of 1988 Relating to the International Convention on Load Lines (Load Lines) through [MSC.491\(104\)](#). The amendments to the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Regulations and Merchant Shipping (Load line) Regulations give effect to the above Resolutions.
3. Resolution [MSC.474\(102\)](#) adopted amendments to SOLAS Chapter II-1 to align the design criteria for watertight integrity with the probabilistic damage stability approach and to include new requirements on mooring arrangements and equipment.
4. Resolution [MSC.482\(103\)](#) adopted amendments to SOLAS Chapter II-1 and Chapter III regarding new requirements on water level detectors and the launching of free-fall lifeboats.
5. Resolution [MSC.496\(105\)](#) adopted amendments to SOLAS Chapter IV, Regulation 42 and 43 of Chapter II-1, Regulation 6 of Chapter III and Regulation 19-1 of Chapter V to modernise the requirements of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) including changing all references to the International Maritime Satellite Organisation (INMARSAT) to the Recognised Mobile Satellite Services (RMSS). Consequential amendments to the specific radio equipment requirements for sea areas A1 to A4 are also introduced.

6. Resolution [MSC.456\(101\)](#), [MSC.496\(105\)](#) and [MSC.497\(105\)](#) adopted amendments to the certificate forms of the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate, the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate, the Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate, the Nuclear Passenger Ship Safety Certificate and the Nuclear Cargo Ship Safety Certificate, as well as changes to the associated records of equipment for passenger ship safety (Form P), cargo ship safety (Form E), cargo ship safety radio (Form R) and cargo ship safety (Form C).

7. Resolution [MSC.491\(104\)](#) adopted amendments to the Load Lines regarding the use of hinged watertight doors to meet the damage stability criteria and to harmonise the terms referenced in the regulation.

8. Copies of the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (Government Gazette No. **S 892/2023**) and Merchant Shipping (Load line) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (Government Gazette No. **S 893/2023**) can be purchased at:

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9. The Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Regulations and Merchant Shipping (Load line) Regulations can also be accessed on [Singapore Statutes Online](#).

10. Any queries relating to this circular should be emailed to [shipping@mpa.gov.sg](mailto:shipping@mpa.gov.sg).

11. The shipping community is encouraged to subscribe to our Telegram channel – [t.me/MPASingapore](https://t.me/MPASingapore) to receive the latest updates.



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