

Guidance Note for Ship's Carving and Marking Note

1. Section 10(1) of the Merchant Shipping Act requires every ship, before registry, to be marked permanently and conspicuously as follows:

(a) her name shall be marked on each of her bows, and her name and the name of her port of registry (SINGAPORE) shall be marked on her stern, on a dark ground in white or yellow letters or on a light ground in black letters, such letters to be of a length (height) not less than 100mm and of proportionate width (75% to 80% of its height)

(b) her official number shall be cut in or marked by permanent means such as welding on her main beam or an easily accessible place on one of the end transverse bulkheads of the machinery spaces, as defined in SOLAS Regulation II-2/3.30. The height of the letters and numerals shall not be less than 100mm and of proportionate width (75% to 80% of its height)

2. Reg. XI-1/3.4, 3.5.1, 3.5.2, 3.5.3 and 3.5.4 of SOLAS 74, apply to all self-propelled cargo ships of 300GT and upwards and all passenger ships of 100GT and upwards built on and after 1 July 2004. For ships constructed before 1 July 2004, the requirements of Reg. XI-1/3.4, 3.5.1, 3.5.2, 3.5.3 and 3.5.4 shall be complied with not later than the first scheduled dry-docking of the ship after 1 July 2004.

The ship's IMO number shall be permanently marked:

(a) in a visible place either on the stern of the ship or on either side of the hull, amidships port and starboard, above the deepest assigned load line or either side of the superstructure, port and starboard or on the front of the superstructure or, in the case of passenger ships, on a horizontal surface visible from the air, and

(b) in an easily accessible place either on one of the end transverse bulkheads of the machinery spaces, as defined in SOLAS Regulation II-2/3.30, or on one of the hatchways or, in the case of tankers, in the pump-room or, in the case of ships with ro-ro spaces, as defined in SOLAS Regulation II-2/3.41, on one of the end transverse bulkheads of the ro-ro spaces.

3. (a) The permanent marking shall be plainly visible, clear of any other markings on the hull and shall be painted in a contrasting colour [see paragraph 1(a)]

(b) The permanent marking referred to in paragraph 2(a) shall not be less than 200mm in height. The permanent marking referred to in paragraph 2(b) shall not be less than 100mm in height. The width of the marks shall be proportionate to the height (75% to 80% of its height)

(c) The permanent marking may be made by raised lettering or by cutting it in or by centre punching it or by any other equivalent method of marking the ship identification number which ensures that the marking is not easily expunged.

(d) On ships constructed of material other than metal, please contact Ship Safety Department, Shipping Division, MPA for the method of marking the ship identification number.

[An example of a ship's identification number: IMO <space> 1234567]