



Türk Loydu Summary Report – MSC 109

DECEMBER 2024

TLR /MSC 109

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summary report

The 109th session of the Maritime Safety Committee, was held from 02 to 06 December 2024. Main decisions and discussions have been summarized hereunder.

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO MANDATORY INSTRUMENTS

Amendments to IGC Code

The Committee adopted draft amendments to IGC Code, Chapter 16 relating to use of other cargo as fuel (e.g. ammonia) with an entry into force date of 1 July 2026. The Committee also approved a MSC Circular on voluntary early implementation of these amendments.

Amendments to IGF Code

The Committee adopted draft amendments to the IGF Code with entry into force date of 1 January 2028. The amendments are on requirements for suction wells installed in fuel tanks, pressure relief valves discharging liquid or gas, safety functions of gas supply system, fire safety, hazardous zones and ventilation.

GOAL-BASED NEW SHIP CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

The Committee considered Initial GBS verification audit of Biro Klasifikasi Indonesia (BKI) and confirmed that the information provided by BKI demonstrated conformity with the Organization's goal-based ship construction standards for bulk carriers and oil tankers.

With respect to the GBS audit of IACS Rec.34/Rev.2 on Standard Wave Data, following deliberations on the audit report of the GBS Audit regarding IACS Rec.34 and other concerns regarding application of IACS Rec.34/Rev.2.

The Committee:

- endorsed the recommendations of the GBS audit team that the observation stemming from the GBS initial verification, back in 2015 was addressed;
- endorsed the recommendations of the GBS Audit Team addressing the changes and impact of IACS Rec.34/Rev.2 by a new audit.
- encouraged IACS not to implement the newly developed CSR until a GBS "following" audit in line with the recommendations of the GBS audit had been completed and the Committee, at a future session, had reviewed and acted on the recommendations from the auditors;

DEVELOPMENT OF A GOAL-BASED INSTRUMENT FOR MARITIME AUTONOMOUS SURFACE SHIPS (MASS)

The Committee continued its effort to complete the work on MASS Code by finalisation of chapter 7 (Risk assessment) in part 2, chapter 18 (Remote operations) in part chapter 12 (Connectivity) and its subsequent relocation from part 2 to part 3, as new chapter 17bis in the draft MASS Code.

With respect to further progressing the work on the development of the MASS Code, the Committee agreed to the Revised road map for developing a goal-based code for MASS with the target for finalization and adoption of the non-mandatory MASS Code in 2026.

DEVELOPMENT OF A SAFETY REGULATORY FRAMEWORK TO SUPPORT THE REDUCTION OF GHG EMISSIONS FROM SHIPS USING NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND ALTERNATIVE FUELS

Development of a Safety Regulatory Framework to Support the Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships Using New Technologies and Alternative Fuels

The Committee continued its work on development of the safety framework the further development to support the reduction of GHG emissions from ships using new technologies and alternative fuels. In this session, a table of physical properties was added to each fuel in the list and the Committee agreed to include a new category in the list of new technologies, for "swappable traction lithium-ion battery containers. The Committee also agreed that the new identified gaps be forwarded to the Correspondence Group (CG) on GHG Safety for further consideration.

Amendments to the SOLAS Convention in relation to the application of the IGF Code

The Committee approved the draft SOLAS amendments in relation to the application of the IGF Code with a view to adoption at MSC 110, and expected entry into force in 2027. The Committee also invited interested Member States and international organizations to submit a formal proposal regarding amendments to the definition of "low-flashpoint fuel" in SOLAS regulation II-1/2.29, which should include detailed consequential amendments to SOLAS chapter II-1 and the IGF Code, to a future session of the Committee.

REVISION OF THE GUIDELINES ON MARITIME CYBER RISK MANAGEMENT

The Committee agreed on the need to further develop cybersecurity standards for ships and port facilities with the possibility of establishing a working group at the next session of the Committee pending submissions under this agenda item and invited Member States and international organizations to submit proposals on the next steps to enhance maritime cybersecurity for consideration.

In addition, the Committee agreed to forward the draft revised Guidelines on maritime cyber risk management (MSC-FAL.1/Circ.3/Rev.3) to the FAL Committee for its concurrent approval.

FORMAL SAFETY ASSESSMENT

The Committee approved the draft revision of MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.12/Rev.2 on Revised guidelines for formal safety assessment (FSA) for use in the IMO rule-making process,

for dissemination as MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.12/Rev.3, subject to concurrent approval by MEPC 83; the amendments are mainly on increased cost effectiveness criteria and editorial corrections.

SHIP SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT

The Committee approved amendments to the regulation II-2/11 for consistent implementation of this provision for passenger ships and cargo ships, as a minor correction for the use of fire integrity tables. These amendments is expected to enter into force on 1 January 2028.

Amendments to paragraph 8.3.5 and annex 1 of the 1994 and 2000 HSC Codes

For the harmonization of the lifejacket carriage requirements with respect to number of infant life jackets and accessories to adult life jackets to accommodate large persons with the relevant requirements in SOLAS chapter III, the Committee approved the draft amendments to 1994 and 2000 HSC Code with a view to adoption at MSC 110, and expected entry into force of 1 January 2028 *with retroactive application*.

See SSE 10 Report [here](#) for further details.

NAVIGATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND SEARCH AND RESCUE (NCSR)

Pilot transfer arrangements

The Committee approved:

- the draft amendments to SOLAS regulation V/23 and the appendix (Certificates)
- the associated draft MSC resolution on performance standards for pilot transfer arrangements and
- the consequential draft amendments to the 1994 and 2000 HSC Codes, the 2008 SPS Code; and the Code of Safety for Fishermen and Fishing Vessels, 2005

The Committee agreed to:

- the draft MSC circular on required pilot transfer arrangements for pilots and other personnel, revising MSC.1/Circ.1428, with an effective date to be determined at MSC 110; and
- the draft MSC circular on voluntary early implementation of the amendments to SOLAS regulation V/23 on pilot transfer arrangements

The Committee approved MSC.1/Circ.1686 on Amendments to the IAMSAR Manual, taking into account ICAO's concurrence with the inclusion of the proposed amendments to the Manual in its 2025 Edition. The Committee noted that, in accordance with the Procedures for amending and updating the IAMSAR Manual (resolution A.894(21), annex), the application date of the draft amendments to the Manual had been set as of 1 January 2026.

See also to Resolutions and Circulars adopted/approved by MSC 109 at Appendix 1 and 2.

CARRIAGE OF CARGOES AND CONTAINERS

Draft amendments to the IGC Code and preparation of a new consolidated version of the Code

The Committee approved the draft amendments to the IGC Code with a view to adoption at MSC 110, and expected entry into force of 1 January 2028. The amendments are mainly on:

- Application of finite element analysis to type C tanks
- Cargo tank filling limits
- The use of LPG and toxic cargoes as fuel
- Carriage of CO2 cargoes
- The causes and effects of an Emergency Shut Down System
- Ethane was added to chapter 16 as a cargo to be used as fuel
- Amendments to the IGC Code which incorporate MSC circulars

Interim guidelines for the safety of ships using ammonia as fuel

The Committee approved MSC.1/Circ.1687 on Interim guidelines for the safety of ships using ammonia as fuel.

See CCC 10 Report [here](#) for further details.

For further information:

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APPENDIX 1 - LIST OF RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION MSC.566(109) – Amendments to the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (IGC CODE)

RESOLUTION MSC.567(109) – Amendments to the International Code of Safety For Ships Using Gases or Other Low-Flashpoint Fuels (IGF CODE)

RESOLUTION MSC.568(109) – Amendments to the Revised Recommendation on Testing of Life-Saving Appliances (RESOLUTION MSC.81(70))

RESOLUTION MSC.569(109) – Performance Standards For The Reception of Maritime Safety Information and Search and Rescue Related Information by MF and HF Digital Navigational Data (NAVDAT) SYSTEM

RESOLUTION MSC.570 (109) – Performance Standards for a Universal Shipborne Automatic Identification System (AIS)

RESOLUTION MSC.571(109) – Interim Guidance to Assist in the Implementation of the Cape Town Agreement of 2012

APPENDIX-2 - LIST OF CIRCULARS APPROVED by MSC 109

MSC.1/Circ.1681	Voluntary early implementation of the amendments to chapter 16 of the IGC Code
MSC.1/Circ.1682	Unified interpretations of SOLAS regulations III/20.8.4 and 20.11, and resolution MSC.402(96)
MSC.1/Circ.1683	Unified interpretations of SOLAS regulation II-2/4.5.6.1, and paragraphs 3.1.2, 3.1.4 and 3.5.3 of the IBC Code
MSC.1/Circ.1684	Unified interpretations of SOLAS chapter II-2
MSC.1/Circ.1276/Rev.2	Revised unified interpretations of SOLAS chapter II-2
MSC.1/Circ.1685	Unified interpretation of SOLAS chapter II-1
MSC.1/Circ.1628/Rev.3	Revised standardized life-saving appliance evaluation and test report forms (personal life-saving appliances)
MSC.1/Circ.1630/Rev.3	Revised standardized life-saving appliance evaluation and test report forms (survival craft)
MSC.1/Circ.1631/Rev.1	Revised standardized life-saving appliance evaluation and test report forms (rescue boats)
MSC.1/Circ.1632/Rev.1	Revised standardized life-saving appliance evaluation and test report forms (launching and embarkation appliances)
MSC.1/Circ.677/Rev.1	Revised standards for the design, testing and locating of devices to prevent the passage of flame into cargo tanks in tankers
COLREG.2/Circ.81	Traffic separation schemes and associated measures
SN.1/Circ.344	Routeing measures other than traffic separation schemes
MSC.1/Circ.1686	Amendments to the IAMSAR manual
MSC.1/Circ.1460/Rev.5	Guidance on the validity of radiocommunications equipment installed and used on ships
SN.1/Circ.297/Rev.1	IALA maritime buoyage system
SN.1/Circ.296/Rev.1	IALA risk management toolbox for aids to navigation and vessel traffic services
SN.1/Circ.345	Difficulties and risks involved in the setting of radar displays to correctly visualize radar SAR transponder (SART) signals
MSC.1/Circ.1687	Interim guidelines for the safety of ships using ammonia as fuel
MSC.1/Circ.1688	Recommendations to national administrations to prevent collisions with fishing vessels
COMSAR.1/Circ.32/Rev.3	Harmonization of GMDSS requirements for radio installations on board SOLAS ships
MSC.1/Circ.1164/Rev.29	International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978
MSC.1/Circ.797/Rev.41	List of competent persons maintained by the Secretary General pursuant to Section A-I/7 of the STCW Code