



INSB Class

110TH SESSION

MSC 110, 18–27 JUNE 2025

BRIEF REPORT
OF THE KEY DECISIONS FROM THE
IMO MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE'S

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Brief Report of the key decisions from the IMO Maritime Safety Committee's - 110th session (MSC 110, 18–27 June 2025)

Technical overview of regulatory changes, amendments, and guidance adopted or advanced.

Executive Summary – MSC 110 (18–27 June 2025)

The **110th session of the IMO's Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 110)** marked a pivotal step forward in modernizing maritime safety regulations. Held from **18 to 27 June 2025**, the session addressed emerging technologies, alternative fuels, and evolving operational risks.

Key outcomes included:

- the adoption of new **SOLAS amendments to Chapter V** for improving transfer arrangements safety for pilots & personnel when embarking/disembarking ships,
- progress on the new **MASS Safety Code for autonomous ships (non-mandatory)**,
- updates to **gas-fuel codes**, and
- enhanced provisions for **crew safety, training, and remote inspections**.

These decisions reflect the Committee's focus on proactive, risk-based regulation to support the safe decarbonization and digital transformation of shipping—while upholding seafarer welfare and international consistency.

1. SOLAS Amendments - Fire Protection & Pilot Transfer Arrangements

Regulation Amended: SOLAS Chapter II-2 & Chapter V/23
Effective Date: 1 January 2028 (new ships); retrofit by 2029–2030
Key Changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revised pilot transfer arrangement requirements under Reg. V/23 to enhance safety during embarkation/disembarkation.• Specific improvements to pilot ladder safety, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Mandated pilot securing arrangements and equipment standards.• Performance standards for pilot transfer arrangements incorporated into IMO circulars.• Added detailed performance standards for ladders, securing devices, and illumination (linked to MSC.1/Circ.1428 revision).• Enhanced fire insulation rules for safety-critical areas, with emphasis for ro-ro passenger decks.



2. Gas-Fueled Ships: IGC Code Amendments (Gas Carriers)

Document: IGC Code (International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk)
Status: Draft amendments circulated; adoption expected MSC 111 or MSC 112
Effective Date (anticipated): 1 July 2028
Key Changes:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification on material standards and protective measures for gas containment systems. • Updated fire safety, gas detection, and ventilation criteria. • Revised unified interpretations regarding cofferdams, tank venting, and secondary barriers.

3. Gas-Fueled Ships: IGF Code Amendments— Low-Flashpoint Fuel Ships

Regulation Affected: IGF Code
Effective Date: 1 July 2028
Key Changes:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope expanded to include all gaseous fuels, not just LNG. • Modified requirements for system redundancy, explosion protection, and emergency shutdown systems. • Introduced “one ship, one code” approach to resolve overlap with IGC Code. <p>What is “One Ship, One Code”? The “one ship, one code” principle aims to eliminate regulatory overlap between the IGF Code (for gas- or low-flashpoint-fuelled ships) and the IGC Code (for gas carriers).</p> <p>What Changes with It? Previously, some gas carriers using LNG as fuel had to comply with <i>both</i> codes, creating duplication and ambiguity.</p> <p>With “one ship, one code”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each ship will be clearly assigned to a single code based on its primary function: • IGC Code for ships carrying liquefied gases as cargo. • IGF Code for ships using gas as fuel only. <p>This change simplifies design, compliance, and inspection processes—no dual-code compliance required.</p>



4. MASS Code – Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships

Document : Draft non-mandatory MASS Code
Status: 18 of 25 chapters completed
Adoption Target: MSC 111 (May 2026); mandatory from ~2032
Key Elements Finalized:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Navigation, communication, and remote-control architecture.• Collision avoidance systems (COLREGs-compliant).• Requirements for autonomous SAR support.• Operational limits based on human-in-the-loop models. <p>MASS operations must meet equivalent safety to crewed vessels and will supplement SOLAS requirements.</p>

5. IMSBC Code Amendments – Bulk Cargo Safety

Regulation Affected: IMSBC Code (International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes Code)
Effective Date: 1 January 2027
Key Changes:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New cargo entries for lithium-ion battery scrap, mineral fines, and iron ore slurry.• Modified self-heating test criteria and moisture limits for Group A cargoes.• Updated fumigation protocols with stricter gas detection and ventilation thresholds.• Clarified exemptions for fire-extinguishing systems on gas carriers with specific tank arrangements.

6. Remote Inspection Techniques (RIT) and Surveys – ESP Code

Regulation Affected: ESP Code (Enhanced Survey Programme)
Effective Date: 1 July 2028 (pending final adoption in MSC 111)
Key Changes:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remote inspection techniques (RIT) formally permitted as part of surveys for bulk carriers and tankers.• RIT includes drones, robotic crawlers, and visual tools subject to flag/class acceptance.
Benefits:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduced surveyor exposure to hazards.• Enables flexibility in inspection scheduling, especially during dry dockings or voyage surveys.



7. Emergency Towing Arrangements – Non-Tankers

Regulation Affected: SOLAS II-1/3-4
Effective Date: 1 January 2028
Key Changes:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim guidelines approved for emergency towing gear on cargo ships other than tankers. • Defined required strength, securing arrangements, and documentation. • Clarified LSA Code provisions on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lifeboat dynamic test loading procedures. ○ Use of simulation and test weights.

8. Load Lines Protocol – Guardrail & Bulwark Revisions

Regulation Affected: 1988 Load Lines Protocol (Annex I, Reg. 25)
Effective Date: To be confirmed post-adoption
Key Changes:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New requirement for three horizontal guardrails at deck openings. • Replaces rope or chain barriers with non-flexible link chains for enhanced crew safety.

9. STCW - Alternative Fuels & Crew Training

Regulation Affected: STCW Convention & Code
Document Approved: STCW.7/Circ.25
Effective Date: Immediate (interim guidance)
Key Provisions:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced generic training framework for seafarers on alternative fuel ships (e.g., ammonia, hydrogen, batteries). • Covers hazards, PPE, firefighting, emergency response, and toxic exposure.
Regulatory Gap Analysis:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalized a comprehensive review of regulatory needs for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ammonia, hydrogen, and other novel fuels. ○ Onboard carbon capture. ○ Nuclear-powered commercial vessels. <p>Identified over 80 areas needing future technical guidelines or rule updates.</p>



Crew Training:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved interim STCW guidance (STCW.7/Circ.25) for seafarers operating on ships using alternative fuels or new propulsion technologies.
Next Steps:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-Committees (SSE, HTW, SDC) assigned to develop full standards for fuel containment, ventilation, explosion risk, and fire suppression.

10. ISM Code Review – Human Element Focus & Crew Welfare

Document Affected: ISM Code
Status: MSC 110 agreed to launch a comprehensive review of the ISM Code-Review launched; recommendations due MSC 111+
Areas to be Addressed:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fatigue and rest-hour management. Psychological safety and harassment reporting mechanisms. Integration of digital fatigue monitoring tools.
Related Updates:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STCW training modules for new fuel types will incorporate mental health and fatigue risk components.

11. Approved or Updated Circulars & Guidelines

Notable Circulars:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised MSC circulars on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MSC.1/Circ.1428 (rev) – Revised guidance on pilot ladders. MSC.1/Circ.1582 (rev) – Fumigation requirements. New MSC circulars on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application of fire extinguishing exemptions (gas carriers) Guardrails and lifeboat dynamic load testing. Record-keeping on special purpose and HSC vessels.



12. Summary Timeline

Regulation-Code	Adoption Year	Entry into Force
SOLAS Fire- Pilot Amendments	2025	2028-2030
IMSBC Updates	2025	2027
IGF IGC Codes Updates	2025-2026	2028
MASS Code (Non mandatory)	2026	2026 (voluntary)
MASS Code - Mandatory	N/A	2032
Remote Survey Provisions	2025	2028
Emergency Towing Guidance	2025	2028
STCW Crew Training Guidance	2025	Immediate (Interim)
LOAD LINES Guard rail Rules	2025	TBD

-End of report-