



GUIDANCE ON SHIPBOARD OPERATIONAL MATTERS APPROVED BY THE 84TH SESSION OF THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE (MSC 84) OF IMO

No. 15 of 2008

23-07-2008

Applicable to: This circular is for the attention of ship owners, managers, operators, agents, masters, crew members and surveyors

1. The Maritime Safety Committee of IMO, at its 84th session (7-16 May 2008), approved a number of circulars which provide guidance to improve the safety and efficiency of some shipboard operations. This shipping circular informs the Shipping Community of the MSC circulars, as listed below. Queries should be directed to the contact officer/s concerned.

Towing procedures

[MSC.1/Circ.1255 - Guidelines for owners/operators on preparing emergency towing procedures](#)

The new SOLAS regulation II-1/3-4 *Emergency towing arrangements and procedures* (see Shipping circular No. 13 of 2008) requires ships to be provided with a ship-specific emergency towing procedure. The Guidelines are intended to help owners/operators to carry out the necessary steps in establishing emergency towing procedures, provide information on the scope of the emergency towing booklet and give guidance towards creating procedures for towage.

The procedures should be considered as part of the emergency preparedness required by paragraph 8 of part A of the International Safety Management (ISM) Code. Hence, ship owners and managers should approach the class of their vessels' safety management system (SMS) for details on the incorporation of the towing procedures into the existing SMS.

Contact officer: Mr Ong Hua Siong (tel: 6375-6210)

LRIT circulars

MSC.1/Circ.1256 - MSC.1/Circ.1259

These circulars relate to the Long-range identification and tracking of ships (LRIT). A separate circular will be issued.

Contact officer: Capt Anand (tel: 6375-6217)

Circulars arising from incidents

[MSC.1/Circ.1261 - Prevention of maritime accidents due to driftwood](#)

[MSC.1/Circ.1280 - Night-time lookout - photochromic lenses and dark adaptation](#)

These two circulars arose from incidents involving driftwood/floating obstacles and navigating officers wearing glasses with photochromic lenses respectively. Masters are advised to take note of the advice given in the circulars.

MSC-MEPC.7/Circ.7 - Guidance on near-miss reporting

The purpose of the circular is to encourage reporting of near-misses so that remedial measures can be taken to

avoid recurrences. Further, the guidance would be useful for compliance with section 9 of the ISM Code with respect to reporting of hazardous situations. Shipowners are encouraged to use the guidance for reporting near-misses.

This circular will be available soon.

Contact officer: Capt Harun bin Jaaffar (tel: 6375-6256)

Fire protection

The MSC approved a number of guidance circulars developed by the Fire Protection subcommittee on various fixed fire-extinguishing systems. Ship owners and managers should approach the class of their vessels for further details. The circulars are as follows:

1. [MSC.1/Circ.1267 - Amendments to the Revised Guidelines for the approval of equivalent fixed gas fire-extinguishing for machinery spaces and cargo pump-rooms \(MSC/Circ.848\)](#)
2. [MSC.1/Circ.1268 - Guidelines for the approval of fixed pressure water-spraying and water-based fire-extinguishing s](#)
3. [MSC.1/Circ.1269 - Amendments to the Revised Guidelines for the approval of equivalent water-based fire-extinguish cargo pump-rooms \(MSC/Circ. 1165\)](#)
4. [MSC.1/Circ.1270 - Revised Guidelines for the approval of fixed aerosol fire-extinguishing systems equivalent to fixec referred to in SOLAS 74, for machinery spaces](#)
5. [MSC.1/Circ.1270 Corr 1 - Revised Guidelines for the approval of fixed aerosol fire-extinguishing systems equivalent as referred to in SOLAS 74, for machinery spaces](#)
6. [MSC.1/Circ.1271 - Guidelines for high-expansion foam using inside air for the protection of machinery spaces and c:](#)
7. [MSC.1/Circ.1272 - Guidelines for the approval of fixed water-based fire-fighting systems for ro-ro spaces and specia referred to in resolution A.123\(V\)](#)
8. [MSC.1/Circ.1274 - Guidelines for evaluation of fire risk of external areas on passenger ships](#)

Contact officer: Mr Ong Hua Siong (tel: 6375-6210)

Dangerous Goods

[MSC.1/Circ.1262 - Amendments to the Revised emergency response procedures for ships carrying dangerous goods \(EmS Guide\)](#)

As the EmS Guide is a supplement to the IMDG Code, MPA will accept the application of the amendments by shippers shipping dangerous goods with effect from 1 January 2009, concurrent with the existing EmS Guide. See also Shipping Circular no. 13 of 2008 regarding early application of the amendments 34-08 to the IMDG Code.

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Use of Pesticides

1. [MSC.1/Circ.1264 - Recommendations on the safe use of pesticides in ships applicable to fumigation of cargo holds](#)
2. [MSC.1/Circ.1265 - Recommendations on the safe use of pesticides in ships applicable to fumigation of cargo transp](#)

These recommendations address the hazards to personnel arising from the operations involved in the fumigation of cargo holds and the carriage of fumigated containers. Shipowners and Masters are advised to follow the guidance given in the two circulars.

Contact officer: Mr Ong Hua Siong (tel: 6375-6210)

Container safety

[MSC.1/Circ.1263 - Revised Recommendation on safety of personnel during container securing operations](#)

In view of the concerns at dangers to personnel engaged in the operation of securing containers at deck level, the MSC approved the *Revised Recommendation on safety of personnel during container securing operations*. Containership owners, container terminal operators and masters of containerships are urged to follow the recommendations in the circular.

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DOC for dangerous goods

MSC.1/Circ.1266 - Document of compliance with the special requirements for ships carrying dangerous goods

The circular contains revised standard formats of the document of compliance recommended for use by ships and high speed craft carrying dangerous goods under SOLAS regulation II-2/19 and part D, chapter 7 of the 2000 HSC Code respectively. Shipowners are advised to use the revised standard format.

This circular will be available soon.

Contact officer: Mr Ong Hua Siong (tel: 6375-6210)

Life boat safety

[MSC.1/Circ.1277 Interim Recommendation on conditions for authorization of service providers for lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear](#)

MPA has previously issued [Shipping Circular No. 4 of 2006](#)¹ on the periodic servicing of launching appliances and on-load release gear. That Shipping Circular makes reference to MSC/Circ.1093 which appears as MSC/Circ.1206 Annex 1 with slight changes. Paragraph 4(c) of our Shipping Circular mentions that a Shipowner or Ship operator may permit a service provider to carry out the servicing of launching appliances and on-load release gear in cases where the manufacturer is unable to provide the service, if the Shipowner or Ship operator has determined that the service provider has sufficient technical knowledge and experience and is competent to do the work. IMO Circular MSC.1/1277 provides comprehensive guidance in determining if a service provider has sufficient technical knowledge and experience and is competent to carry out the servicing of launching appliances and on-load release gear and Shipowners and Ship operators should use MSC.1/1277 when seeking service providers. The service providers so engaged is still subject to acceptance by the Classification Society which issues the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate or the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate to the vessel.

Contact person: Mr Tan Leong Beng (tel: 6375-6207)

[MSC.1/Circ.1278 Guidance on wearing immersion suits in totally enclosed lifeboats](#)

A recent incident highlighted the potential risks of wearing of immersion suits in totally enclosed lifeboats. The incident occurred in winter and although outside temperatures were frigid, a number of crew wearing immersion suits suffered from overheating and dehydration. Shipowners and Masters are advised to follow the guidance provided in the circular.

Contact officer: Mr Ong Hua Siong (tel: 6375-6210)

Protective coatings - Permanent means of access

[MSC.1/Circ.1279 Guidelines for corrosion protection of permanent means of access arrangements](#)

Currently, two resolutions cover *Performance standard for protective coatings for dedicated seawater ballast tanks in all types of ships and double-side skin spaces of bulk carriers* (resolution MSC.215(82)) and *Performance standard for protective coatings for void spaces* (resolution MSC.244(83)). The circular augments the two resolutions by providing guidelines for corrosion protection of permanent means of access arrangements, which may or may not form part of the structural strength elements in ballast tanks or void spaces. Shipowners and shipbuilders are advised to take into consideration the guidance provided in the circular.

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Radar

[SN.1/Circ.271 - Guidelines for the installation of shipborne radar equipment](#)

The purpose of the circular is to improve safety of navigation. Shipowners are advised to use the guidelines as a supplement to the revised *Performance Standards for radar equipment*, contained in MSC.192(79), as amended.

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2. Ship owners are urged to implement the recommendations in the circulars. They may approach the nine approved classification societies to seek further guidance.

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