



GUIDANCE ON SHIPBOARD OPERATIONAL MATTERS APPROVED BY THE 83RD SESSION OF THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE (MSC 83) OF IMO

No. 2 of 2008

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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 83rd session (3-12 October 2007), 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.

[MSC.1/Circ.1245 - Guidelines for damage control plans and information to the master](#)

The objective of the circular is to provide advice on the preparation of damage control plans and to set a minimum level for the presentation of damage stability information for use on board passenger and cargo ships to which SOLAS regulation II-1/19, as amended by resolution MSC.216(82), applies.

Contact officer: Mr Wong Kai Cheong (tel: 6375-6236)

[MSC.1/Circ.1251 - Guidelines on the control of ships in an emergency](#)

The purpose of these Guidelines is to provide a framework within which Member Governments (Sections 4 & 5), shipmasters & companies (Sections 4 & 6), salvors (Section 7) and others engaged in a maritime emergency will be expected to operate.

Contact officers: Capt Sangam (tel: 6375-6205); Capt Sanjay (tel: 6375-6209)

[MSC.1/Circ.1252 - Annual testing of the automatic identification system \(AIS\)](#)

The purpose of an annual testing is to determine that AIS is operational as defined in performance standards not inferior to those adopted by IMO. To assist in achieving this aim, it is recommended that all AIS be subject to a standard method of testing as detailed in the circular.

Contact officer: Mr Lim Hock Lye (tel: 6375-6219)

[MSC.1/Circ.1253 - Shipboard technical operating and maintenance manuals](#)

The MSC noted that the availability on board ships of up-to-date and accurate operating and maintenance manuals could be enforced via the implementation and enforcement mechanisms of the International Safety Management (ISM) Code, and agreed that IACS Recommendation No. 71 (dated September 2000) Guide for the development of shipboard technical manuals provided a useful reference for those responsible for developing such manuals.

IACS Recommendation No. 71 can be downloaded from the IACS website:

http://www.iacs.org.uk/document/public/Publications/Guidelines_and_recommendations/PDF/REC_71_pdf211.pdf

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

[SN.1/Circ.265 - Guidelines on the application of SOLAS regulation V/15 to INS, IBS and bridge design](#)

SOLAS regulation V/15 requires that the design and arrangement of navigation systems and equipment on the bridge facilitate the tasks to be performed by the bridge team and the pilot and promote safe and effective Bridge Resource Management (BRM). The purpose of this document is to identify the needs of the bridge team and the pilot and the BRM principles that should be taken into account in the design and arrangement of INS, IBS and for bridge design for the installation of INS and IBS on the bridge.

Contact officers: Capt Sangam (tel: 6375-6205); Capt Sanjay (tel: 6375-6209)

[SN.1/Circ.266 - Maintenance of Electronic Chart Display and Information System \(ECDIS\) software](#)[SN.1/Circ.207/Rev.1 - Differences between RCDS and ECDIS](#)

The proper maintenance of Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) software is an important way to improve the safety of navigation. This circular is intended to ensure that mariners always have the latest safety related information available to them.

SN.1/Circ.207/Rev.1 is a circular which explains the difference between RCDS and ECDIS.

Contact officers: Capt Sangam (tel: 6375-6205); Capt Sanjay (tel: 6375-6209)

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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