

A SUMMARY REPORT ON MSC 109, AMENDMENTS TO THE MANDATORY INSTRUMENTS & UNIFIED INTERPRETATIONS



The 109th session of the Maritime Safety Committee was held from 2 to 6 December 2024, chaired by Mrs. Mayte Medina (United States). The Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mr. Theofilos Mozas (Greece), was also present.

This session was attended Members and Associate Members, representatives from the United Nations Programmes, specialized agencies and other entities; observers from intergovernmental organizations with agreements of cooperation; and observers from non-governmental organizations in consultative status, as listed in document MSC 109/INF.1.

AMENDMENTS TO MANDATORY INSTRUMENTS

Amendments to chapter 16 of the IGC Code

The Committee agreed that the aforementioned draft amendments proposed for adoption at this session should be deemed to have been accepted on 1 January 2026 and enter into force on 1 July 2026.

Amendments to the part A and part A-1 of the IGF Code

The Committee agreed that the aforementioned draft amendments proposed for adoption at this session should be deemed to have been accepted on 1 July 2027 and enter into force on 1 January 2028.

Revision of MSC.1/Circ.677

The Committee approved MSC.1/Circ.677/Rev.1 on Revised standards for the design, testing and locating of devices to prevent the passage of flame into cargo tanks in tankers, with the effective date of 4 December 2026.

Amendments to the IAMSAR Manual

The Committee approved 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. In doing so, the Committee noted that, in accordance with the Procedures for amending and updating the IAMSAR Manual (resolution A.894 (21)), the application date of the draft amendments to the Manual had been set as of 1 January 2026.

Inconsistent implementation of SOLAS regulations IV/10 and IV/15 and COMSAR.1/Circ.32/Rev.2

The Committee recalled that amendments to SOLAS chapter IV (Radio communications) emanating from the outcome of the modernization of the GMDSS were adopted by resolution MSC.496 (105) and had entered into force on 1 January 2024.

The Committee confirmed the understanding in paragraph 24 of document MSC 109/21/2 and requested the Secretariat to issue a revision of COMSAR.1/Circ.32/Rev.2 amending footnote no. 6 of the table beneath paragraph 2.3 to read:

"6 A single MF/HF radio installation may be accepted both as a primary MF radio installation and a duplicated MF/HF radio installation, as provided in this circular."

UNIFIED INTERPRETATIONS

Unified interpretations of SOLAS regulations III/20.8.4 and 20.11, and resolution MSC.402 (96)

The Committee approved Unified Interpretations of SOLAS regulations III/20.8.4 and 20.11, and resolution MSC.402 (96), on the applicability of SOLAS regulation III/20.11 and resolution MSC.402 (96) to inflated rescue boats.

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

The Committee approved 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, on cargo/vapour piping and related gas-freeing piping/ducts on tankers, with the effective date of 1 January 2026.

Unified Interpretations of SOLAS chapter II-2

The Committee approved Unified Interpretations of SOLAS chapter II-2, on consistent application of SOLAS regulation II-2/11.4.1 on the crown of a machinery space of category A, as well as SOLAS regulations II-2/4.5.3.2.2 and 11.6.3.2 on the secondary means of venting cargo tanks.

Revised unified interpretations of SOLAS chapter II-2

The Committee approved MSC.1/Circ.1276/Rev.2 on Revised unified interpretations of SOLAS chapter II-2, rectifying an oversight regarding references to SOLAS regulation II-2/9.7.5.1.

Unified Interpretation of SOLAS chapter II-1

The Committee approved Unified Interpretation of SOLAS chapter II-1 on SOLAS regulation II-1/26 concerning single essential propulsion components, with the effective date of 1 January 2026.

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