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Circular Letter No.5077
22 October 2025

To: All IMO Members
United Nations and specialized agencies
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO
SOLAS Contracting Governments which are not Members of IMO

Subject: **111th session of the Maritime Safety Committee (13 to 22 May 2026)**

1 The Secretary-General has the honour to invite representation at the 111th session of the Maritime Safety Committee, which will be held from Wednesday, 13 May to Friday, 22 May 2026.

2 The provisional agenda for the 111th session (MSC 111/1) is attached to this Circular Letter. Further documentation, including an annotated agenda with a provisional timetable, will be issued in due course.

3 During the session, the Maritime Safety Committee in its expanded form will, under agenda item 3 (Amendments to mandatory instruments), consider for adoption proposed amendments to:

- .1 chapters IV and V and the appendix (Certificates) of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974;
- .2 the International Code on the Enhanced Programme of Inspections during Surveys of Bulk Carriers and Oil Tankers, 2011 (2011 ESP Code);
- .3 the International Code of Safety for High-speed Craft, 1994 (1994 HSC Code);
- .4 the International Code of Safety for High-speed Craft, 2000 (2000 HSC Code);
- .5 the International Code of Safety for Ships Carrying Industrial Personnel (IP Code);
- .6 the International Life-Saving Appliance Code (LSA Code);
- .7 the Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear (resolution MSC.402(96));
- .8 annex B to the Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966 (1988 Load Lines Protocol); and
- .9 the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code, circulated under cover of Circular Letters No.5063 of 29 September 2025 and No.5080 of 7 October 2025 (IMDG Code amendments).

4 In accordance with the provisions of article VIII of the 1974 SOLAS Convention and article VI of the 1988 Load Lines Protocol, SOLAS Contracting Governments and Parties to the 1988 LL Protocol, which are not Members of the Organization, are invited to participate in the consideration and adoption of the proposed amendments.

Use of hybrid meeting facilities to complement in-person participation

5 The Council, at its 132nd session (C 132), agreed to permanently establish the utilization of hybrid capabilities to support in-person meetings and invited the other IMO organs to do the same. Information on hybrid meetings is provided in Circular Letter No.4627.

Submission of documents

6 In accordance with the *Organization and method of work of the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee and their subsidiary bodies* (MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.5/Rev.6), the deadlines for the submission of documents to the session and the method of submitting documents are specified in paragraph 1 of the notes to the provisional agenda for MSC 111 (MSC 111/1). A link to a template is available on the home page of the IMODOCS website for use in the preparation of documents. Documents should be submitted through the Meeting Document Submission Portal, available on the IMODOCS home page (<https://docs.imo.org>) under the "Submissions" tab, to help streamline and harmonize the process of submitting documents for consideration by the different IMO bodies (MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.5/Rev.6, paragraph 6.2).

7 Further to the decision taken by the Council, at its 120th regular session (C 120/D, paragraph 4.9), and by the Committee at its 100th session (MSC 100/20, paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3), regarding the issue of access to information and transparency, submitters of meeting documents are invited to give their consent for their documents to be released to the public prior to the meeting by checking the "opt-in box" at the top right corner of the new document template provided on IMODOCS (pre-session public release). In the absence of explicit consent, submissions will not be released to the public prior to the meeting.

Working and drafting groups

8 The Chair of the Committee will advise, well in time before MSC 111, on the final selection of and modalities for any working and drafting groups to be established. MSC 110 (MSC 110/21, paragraph 18.120) had envisaged that working and drafting groups on the following subjects may be established at MSC 111:

- .1 Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS);
- .2 regulatory framework to support the reduction of GHG emissions from ships using new technologies and alternative fuels;
- .3 long-range identification and tracking of ships; and
- .4 amendments to mandatory instruments.

ANNEX 1

REGISTRATION, ACCREDITATION AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Registration

Member Governments, UN agencies, IGOs and NGOs are required to provide, prior to the meeting date, the names of all the members of their delegations including Permanent Representatives, Assistant Permanent Representatives and Members of Permanent Missions attending the meeting via the Online Meeting Registration System (OMRS), as advised in Circular Letter No.4336 of 5 November 2020.

Active participants are those registered as either *physical* (attending meetings at IMO Headquarters in-person) or *remote-active*. They are authorized to take the floor and make interventions. Passive participants are those only able to follow proceedings remotely via live-streaming.

Remote-active participants will receive a personalized joining link via email daily before each session starts at approximately 08.30 UTC+1. The Zoom link is unique to the recipient and should not be shared with anyone. Accuracy of the registered email address in OMRS is crucial.

Remote-passive participants automatically receive a link, once their registration is approved, to a Web stream of the session (live-streaming), which will be broadcast via the IMODOCS page. It is important to note that the option for remote-passive participation is available only if the meeting is livestreamed.

In-person participants should not join the Zoom meeting when physically present in the Main Hall or Committee Rooms, as this will have a detrimental impact on the hybrid system and reduce the number of licences available for those joining remotely.

Delegates wishing to change their participation status from in-person to remote-active or vice versa must do so in the OMRS through their respective OMRS Delegation Coordinator(s). Subsequently, they will receive a joining link for the meeting.

Delegates attending the meeting in person who have completed the registration procedure will be issued with an electronic access card at IMO to pass through the security barrier in the IMO Headquarters.

Issue of the access card will require photographic proof of identity, e.g. passport, identity card or driving licence. Delegates may also be required to show proof of identity at any time while they are in the IMO Headquarters if requested by IMO Security. In view of the significant costs incurred in producing access cards, delegates who have previously been issued with one are kindly requested to bring it with them for reactivation.

Any matters relating to the use of the OMRS and the participation in the forthcoming meetings of MSC 111 should be communicated to:

Registration Unit
Meeting Services, Meeting Support Section
Email: onlineregistration@imo.org

Members of delegations will not be registered to attend the meeting without authorization from their respective OMRS Delegation Coordinator(s). Delegates whose names do not appear on the OMRS list will be asked to contact their OMRS Delegation Coordinator in order to process their authorization to attend the meeting.

Delegates are advised that the Registration Desk will be open from 7.30 a.m. UTC+1 on Wednesday, 13 May 2026, when early arrival would be appreciated.

Remote or hybrid participation

Delegates joining the meeting remotely are urged to use appropriate equipment, and are kindly requested to wait a few seconds before starting to speak and to endeavour to speak slowly and clearly, to facilitate interpretation in other languages

Statements

To facilitate the interpretation of interventions during the session, delegations are encouraged to provide advance copies of statements to the Secretariat by email to statements@imo.org.

Accreditation

In addition to registering through OMRS, each Member or Government entitled to participate in a session of the Committee must submit a letter of credentials for its representatives and alternates, if any.

As required by rule 9 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure, credentials are to be issued by the Head of State, the Head of Government, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister concerned or by an appropriate authority properly designated by one of them for this purpose. In the latter case, the designated signatory should state in the letter by which of the above-mentioned authorities he or she has been authorized to issue credentials. Model letters of credentials are available upon request from the External Relations Office (Legal Affairs and External Relations Division).

Credentials should reach the Secretariat as soon as possible and, preferably, by the start of the meeting. It is advisable to send an advance copy of the letter of credentials by email to credentials@imo.org. Original letters of credentials can either be posted or handed over during registration upon arrival (ground floor), at the Meeting Services Desk (second floor) or at the External Relations Office (seventh floor).

Any matters relating to letters of credentials should be communicated to:

External Relations Office
Legal Affairs and External Relations Division
Email: credentials@imo.org

Code of Conduct

Delegates, participants, attendees and guests are subject to the Code of Conduct for Delegates, Observers and Other Participants at IMO Meetings, Events and Activities to Prevent Harassment including Sexual Harassment (Circular Letter No.4908).

ANNEX 2

PROCEDURES GOVERNING IMO SUPPORT FOR VISA APPLICATIONS

As established in article 7.2 of Part III on Access and communications of the Headquarters Agreement, delegates are entitled to have their entry into the United Kingdom authorized without delay and without charge.

All delegates who are travelling to participate in this meeting will require an entry visa for the United Kingdom. Delegates should **not** apply for an electronic travel authorization (ETA), but instead apply for an "**EXEMPT**" visa at: www.gov.uk/exempt-vignette, note the reference numbers and follow the online instructions to attend either the nominated Visa Application Centre or the United Kingdom Embassy or High Commission. Those delegates travelling to the United Kingdom on a regular basis may apply for a multi-entry exempt visa. United Kingdom visa applications should be accompanied by the following documentation:

- i. a copy of this circular letter (numbered CL.5077), to be used as the official letter of invitation;
- ii. the nomination letter; and
- iii. a note verbale from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Delegates must be nominated by their competent Ministry (usually the Ministry of Transport or the National Maritime Administration). The nomination letter should be accompanied by a note verbale issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

This exercise should be undertaken as early as possible, but no later than **six weeks** before the date of arrival in the UK.

If delegates encounter visa problems, either the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Transport, the National Maritime Administration or the competent ministry should send an official communication to the Head of the IMO External Relations Office requesting visa assistance. The communication should state the reasons given by the British Embassy/High Commission as to why visas have been or may be refused and contain the following details:

- i. First name
Family name
Profession
Date of birth
Passport no.
Valid until
Visa reference number
Date and place of visa application
- ii. Purpose of visit
- iii. Duration of anticipated stay in the United Kingdom

Any requests for visa assistance should be communicated to visa@imo.org.

MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE
111th session
Agenda item 1

MSC 111/1
22 October 2025
Original: ENGLISH

Pre-session public release:

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

**for the 111th session of the Maritime Safety Committee,
to be held from Wednesday, 13 May to Friday, 22 May 2026
at IMO Headquarters, 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR**

Session commences at 9.30 a.m. (UTC+1) on Wednesday, 13 May 2026

Opening of the session

- 1 Adoption of the agenda; report on credentials
- 2 Decisions of other IMO bodies
- 3 Amendments to mandatory instruments
- 4 Goal-based new ship construction standards
- 5 Development of a goal-based instrument for maritime autonomous surface ships (MASS)
- 6 Development of a safety regulatory framework to support the reduction of GHG emissions from ships using new technologies and alternative fuels
- 7 Measures to enhance maritime security
- 8 Piracy and armed robbery against ships
- 9 Unsafe mixed migration by sea
- 10 Formal safety assessment
- 11 Review of the financial architecture of the LRIT system
- 12 Ship design and construction (Report of the twelfth session of the Sub-Committee)
- 13 Human element, training and watchkeeping (Report of the twelfth session of the Sub-Committee)
- 14 Carriage of cargoes and containers (Report of the eleventh session of the Sub-Committee)

- 15 Navigation, communications and search and rescue (Report of the twelfth session of the Sub-Committee)
- 16 Pollution Prevention and Response (Report of the thirteenth session of the Sub-Committee)
- 17 Implementation of IMO instruments (Report of the eleventh session of the Sub-Committee)
- 18 Application of the Committee's method of work
- 19 Work programme
- 20 Any other business
- 21 Consideration of the report of the Committee on its 111th session

Notes:

1 In accordance with the *Organization and method of work of the Maritime Safety Committee and Marine Environment Protection Committee and their subsidiary bodies* (MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.5/Rev.6):

.1 documents should be received by the Secretariat as follows:¹

- .1 documents (including information documents) containing more than six pages of text (bulky documents),² by **10 February 2026 (13-week deadline)**;
- .2 non-bulky documents including information documents (six pages or fewer) and bulky information documents submitted in electronic format, by **10 March 2026 (nine-week deadline)**; and
- .3 documents (four pages or fewer) commenting on those referred to in sub-paragraphs .1 and .2 above, by **24 March 2026 (seven-week deadline)**. These documents should start with a paragraph clearly indicating the document on which comments are made and stating that the document is submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6.12.5 of MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.5/Rev.6;

¹ Documents other than information documents and reports of sub-committees, working, drafting, correspondence and other groups and the Secretariat, which contain more than 20 pages, in line with paragraph 6.11 of MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.5/Rev.6, will not be translated in their entirety. Such documents should include, for translation purposes, a summary not longer than four pages, with the technical content submitted as an annex in the language needed by working groups (i.e. English).

² In the case of documents containing more than 50 pages, the provisions of paragraph 6.12.1 of MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.5/Rev.6 apply.

- .2 for reasons of economy, documents should be submitted in single spacing, be as concise as possible and:
- .1 all documents should include a brief summary prepared in accordance with MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.5/Rev.6;
 - .2 substantive documents should conclude with a summary of the action the Committee is invited to take; and
 - .3 information documents should conclude with a summary of the information contained therein;
- .3 the following word-processing format should be observed in order to standardize the presentation of documents:
- font: Arial;
 - font size: 11;
 - justification: full;
 - margins: 2 cm top, 2.5 cm bottom, left and right; and
- .4 To facilitate the processing of documents, they should be submitted through the Meeting Document Submission Portal on IMODOCS (Submission Portal) in Microsoft Word (see Circular Letter No.4662). Should any problems be encountered that prevent submission of a document via the Submission Portal, submitters should contact the Secretariat at imodocs@imo.org

2 MSC has recommended that the provisions of MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.5/Rev.6, which, inter alia, provide that the Secretariat should strictly apply the rules concerning the submission of documents and not accept late submissions from Member States or international organizations, should be strictly observed.

3 In order to improve access to information and increase transparency, submitters of meeting documents are invited to give their consent for their documents to be released to the public prior to the meeting by checking the "opt-in box" at the top right corner of the new document template provided on IMODOCS (pre-session public release). In the absence of explicit consent, submissions will not be released to the public prior to the meeting.
