

MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE
110th session
Agenda item 20

MSC 110/INF.34
28 April 2025
ENGLISH ONLY

Pre-session public release: ☒

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Best practice industry publications released in 2024/2025 and relevant to the Maritime Safety Committee

Submitted by ICS

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document informs of recent best practice guidance released in 2024 and 2025 from International Chamber of Shipping, including *A Practical Guide to Shipboard Inspections, First Edition*; *Guide to Helicopter/Ship Operations, Sixth Edition*; *Maritime Security, Second Edition* and *Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse On Board Ship, 2025-2026 Edition*.

Strategic direction, if applicable: 6

Output: Not applicable

Action to be taken: Paragraph 39

Related document: FAL.6/Circ.14/Rev.1

General

1 This document is submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6.12.6 of 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.2).

2 The International Chamber of Shipping notifies the Committee of the publication of several new and revised best practice publications that help shipping companies achieve regulatory compliance and support safe and environmentally responsible operations.

Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse On Board Ship

3 The International Chamber of Shipping and Witherbys published *Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse On Board Ship: Guidelines for Owners and Masters on Preparation, Prevention, Protection and Response, 2025-2026 Edition* in April 2025.

4 This publication provides guidance on how to combat drug trafficking at sea and to recognize the signs of drug use and dependence among crew members.

5 This new edition includes emerging drug trafficking trends and high-profile seizures, enhanced physical security measures both in port and on board, recommended training at ship and corporate levels, detailed search procedures and concealment methods, cybersecurity risks such as social engineering and guidance on responding to drug-related incidents on board, including reporting protocols.

6 The 2025-2026 edition updates and supersedes *Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse On Board Ship: Guidelines for Owners and Masters on Preparation, Prevention, Protection and Response, 2023-2024*.

Maritime Security

7 The International Chamber of Shipping and Witherbys published *Maritime Security: A Comprehensive Guide for Shipowners, Seafarers and Administrations Second Edition* in March 2025.

8 The Guide addresses the shifting threats faced by the shipping industry today, including political instability, piracy, terrorism and cyberattacks. It equips readers with the knowledge and tools to confidently navigate the complex landscape of maritime security.

9 The second edition updates and supersedes *Maritime Security: A Comprehensive Guide for Shipowners, Seafarers and Administrations First Edition*.

Guide to Helicopter/Ship Operations

10 The International Chamber of Shipping published *Guide to Helicopter/Ship Operations, Sixth Edition* in January 2025.

11 This updated edition includes a risk assessment framework for both landing and winching operations, an aide-memoire for the responsible officer, an enhanced shipboard safety checklist, a sample toolbox talk template to support preoperative briefings and further clarifications on roles and responsibilities.

12 The sixth edition updates and supersedes *Guide to Helicopter/Ship Operations, Fifth Edition*.

Shipboard Response to Stowaways and Distressed People in Small Boats

13 The International Chamber of Shipping and Witherbys published *Shipboard Response to Stowaways and Distressed People in Small Boats, 2025-2026 Edition* in November 2024.

14 The primary aim of this book is to advise seafarers in general, and the officers and crew of merchant ships in particular, how best to deal with people encountered at sea as stowaways, migrants (including refugees) and the victims of trafficking.

15 In each case, details of the master's responsibilities and the required procedures are set out, along with preventative measures, appropriate preparation and the recommended response in stowaway and rescue at sea situations.

Cyber Security Workbook for On Board Ship Use

16 The International Chamber of Shipping and Witherbys published *Cyber Security Workbook for On Board Ship Use, Sixth Edition* in October 2024.

17 This practical workbook supports the owner, master and the ship's crew with cybersecurity risk management.

18 It contains comprehensive checklists to support the day-to-day management of onboard cybersecurity and facilitates collaboration between ships, onshore IT departments and equipment manufacturers.

19 The sixth edition updates and supersedes the *Cyber Security Workbook for On Board Ship Use, Fifth Edition*

A Practical Guide to Shipboard Inspections

20 The International Chamber of Shipping published *A Practical Guide to Shipboard Inspections, First Edition* in July 2024.

21 The guide helps shipping companies implement a systematic approach to inspections, better comply with industry regulations and ensure their ships navigate the seas safely and in a manner that protects the marine environment. The recommendations in this guide are relevant to all ship types.

Global Health Emergency Guide: Helping Shipping Companies and Crew Prepare, Act and Recover

22 The International Chamber of Shipping published *Global Health Emergency Guide: Helping Shipping Companies and Crew Prepare, Act and Recover, First Edition* in July 2024.

23 This guide provides a comprehensive and practical framework for shipping companies to get ahead and prepare for any future global health emergency. Each part (before, during and after) includes a toolkit of more than 30 checklists, posters, templates and forms to help companies practically implement these protocols into their safety management system and deliver on their crisis management plan in the event of an outbreak.

Engine Room Procedures Guide

24 The International Chamber of Shipping published *Engine Room Procedures Guide, Second Edition* in March 2024.

25 The guide provides comprehensive guidance on engine room procedures, to ensure that ships' engine rooms are operated and managed safely while protecting the environment.

26 The *Engine Room Procedures Guide* is a companion to the *ICS Bridge Procedures Guide*, which is referenced in FAL.6/Circ.14/Rev.1.

27 The second edition includes the latest safe procedures for handling liquefied natural gas, operating under low loads, enclosed space entry, and preparing for port state inspections.

28 The second edition updates and supersedes the *ICS Engine Room Procedures Guide, First Edition*.

Piracy, Armed Robbery and Conflict at Sea

29 The International Chamber of Shipping and Witherbys published *Piracy, Armed Robbery and Conflict at Sea – 2024-25 Edition* in December 2023.

30 The publication provides advice on current piracy and armed robbery hotspots, as well as conflict regions and areas of increased risk. It includes the latest industry guidelines and advice to aid in the development of ship security plans and also provides useful material for the training of masters and ship security officers to help achieve mandatory training requirements.

31 The 2024-2025 edition fully updates and supersedes the ICS *Pirates and Armed Robbers: Guidelines on Prevention for Masters and Ship Security Officers 4th Edition*.

International Medical Guide for Seafarers and Fishers

32 The International Chamber of Shipping published the International Medical Guide for Seafarers and Fishers in March 2023.

33 Carriage of a medical guide on board is mandatory under the International Labour Organization's Maritime Labour Convention (ILO MLC) and the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Seafarer Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Convention.

34 The fishing industry requires proper medical care to be provided on board under the ILO Work in Fishing Convention, and medical training for those providing first aid care under the IMO STW-F 1995 Convention.

35 The International Chamber of Shipping has collaborated with the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and International Maritime Health Association (IMHA) on this new international medical guide that provides clear, comprehensive and up to date medical guidance to seafarers and fishers who are responsible for administering medical care on board, and which also includes an updated ship's medicine chest.

Availability

36 International Chamber of Shipping publications are available to buy as print and e-books: <https://publications.ics-shipping.org/>.

37 A print reference copy of each ICS publication is also available for IMO Members to read in the library of the IMO Maritime Knowledge Centre (MKC).

38 Delegates can register to receive regular updates on ICS publications, news and events at <https://www.ics-shipping.org/sign-up/>.

Action requested of the Committee

39 The Committee is invited to note the information provided.
