



MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION
COMMITTEE
84th session
Agenda item 15

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Pre-session public release: ☒

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Best practice industry publications released in 2025-2026 and relevant to the Maritime Environment Protection Committee

Submitted by ICS

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document provides information on recently released and forthcoming best practice guidance from 2025 to 2026 from the International Chamber of Shipping, including the *Deck Procedures Guide*, First Edition; *Shipping and the Environment: A Guide to Environmental Compliance*, Sixth Edition; and the *Ship to Ship Transfer Guide for Petroleum, Chemicals and Liquefied Gases*, Second Edition.

Strategic direction, if applicable: Not applicable

Output: Not applicable

Action to be taken: Paragraph 39

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

General

1 ICS 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.

Biofouling, biosecurity and hull cleaning

2 ICS, BIMCO and Witherbys are expected to publish the *Biofouling, Biosecurity and Hull Cleaning*, Third Edition in October 2026.

3 This publication identifies ship structures that are vulnerable to biofouling, factors affecting the rate of build-up, and the effect of biofouling on performance and operating costs.

4 The third edition will update and supersede the *Biofouling, Biosecurity and Hull Cleaning*, Second Edition.

Shipping and the environment

5 ICS is expected to publish *Shipping and the Environment: A Guide to Environmental Compliance*, Sixth Edition in June 2026.

6 The guide gives shipping companies and seafarers a comprehensive entry point into the vast range of regulatory and operational considerations designed to reduce shipping's environmental footprint.

7 The sixth edition covers the most recent IMO developments on exhaust gas cleaning systems, controlling and managing invasive aquatic species through the ship's hulls, and national regulations that affect global shipping.

8 Checklists are included to help shipping companies ensure the safety management system is in line with current environmental requirements, and that all ships are operating in accordance with environmental regulations.

9 The sixth edition updates and supersedes ICS *Shipping and the Environment: A Code of Practice*, Fourth Edition.

Tanker safety guide (chemicals)

10 ICS is expected to publish *Tanker Safety Guide (Chemicals)*, Sixth Edition in April 2026.

11 The guide continues to provide those serving on ships carrying hazardous and noxious chemicals in bulk with up-to-date information on recognized best practices for safe and pollution-free operations on ships regulated under MARPOL Annex II.

12 The sixth edition covers detailed guidance for masters and shipowners on changing from Annex I to Annex II cargoes as uncertainty arises when a tanker is conducting tank cleaning operations to change over from an oil cargo to the next chemical cargo, and this guidance seeks to address these issues.

13 New guidance is also provided on MARPOL discharge criteria for oily residues and wash water that contains chemicals, and hazardous zones in relation to hot work.

14 The ship/shore safety checklists are included to help ship and terminal crew complete important safety checks efficiently.

15 The sixth edition updates and supersedes the ICS *Tanker Safety Guide (Chemicals)*, Fifth Edition.

Deck procedures guide

16 ICS published the *Deck Procedures Guide*, First Edition in January 2026.

17 The guide provides a comprehensive overview of essential deck operations, including cargo operations and bunkering, to ensure that all those working on or maintaining machinery on deck are well-equipped to handle a wide range of operations while also protecting the environment.

18 The procedures in this First Edition align with those in the widely used ICS *Engine Room Procedures Guide* and *Bridge Procedures Guide*, which is referenced in FAL.6/Circ.14/Rev.1, completing an essential set of guides that enable companies to uphold the highest standards of best practice across ship operations.

19 The First Edition includes practical procedures and checklists for deck operations and maintenance of core equipment across all ship types.

Ship to ship transfer guide for petroleum, chemicals and liquefied gases

20 ICS, CDI, OCIMF and SIGTTO published *Ship to Ship Transfer Guide for Petroleum, Chemicals and Liquefied Gases*, Second Edition in September 2025.

21 Evolving with industry practice and regulation, including the 2008 amendments to MARPOL Annex I, the new edition adds significant updates such as a dedicated chapter on human factors, reinforcing safety culture and shared responsibility.

22 Its development involved wide consultation with service providers, port and terminal operators, equipment providers and regulators, reflecting 50 years of practical experience and the joint effort needed to achieve incident-free STS operations.

23 The second edition updates and supersedes *Ship to Ship Transfer Guide for Petroleum, Chemicals and Liquefied Gases*, First Edition.

Guide to Helicopter/Ship Operations

24 ICS published *Guide to Helicopter/Ship Operations*, Sixth Edition in January 2025.

25 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 pre-operative briefings and further clarifications on roles and responsibilities.

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

Underwater Radiated Noise Guide

27 ICS and BIMCO published the *Underwater Radiated Noise Guide*, First Edition in October 2024.

28 The guide raises awareness of the IMO *Revised guidelines for the reduction of underwater radiated noise from shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life* (MEPC.1/Circ.906).

29 It includes guidance on the sources of underwater noise, its impact on marine life, the scope of regional regulations and voluntary measures, the relationship between various energy efficiency measures and underwater noise, and includes an example noise management plan for shipping companies.

30 The guide is aimed at technical superintendents and ship's officers, to help them understand what underwater radiated noise is and how they can help reduce it.

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions: A Guide to Regulatory Compliance

31 ICS published *Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions: A Guide to Regulatory Compliance*, Second Edition in October 2024.

32 The guide incorporates the IMO regulatory framework, in particular the 2021 amendments to MARPOL Annex VI, plainly and in one place to help shipowners, operators and managers.

33 The second edition adds a new chapter on the European Union Emission Trading System (EU-ETS) and its relationship to the IMO regulatory framework.

34 The second edition updates and supersedes the ICS *Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions: A Guide to IMO Regulatory Compliance*, First Edition.

Availability

35 ICS publications are available to buy as print and eBooks:
<https://publications.ics-shipping.org/>.

36 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).

37 E-learning to complement guidance in ICS Publications will be available through the ICS Academy.

38 Delegates can register to receive regular updates on ICS publications, the ICS Academy, ICS 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.
