

Update from the IMO: Polar Code and Regulation Development during COVID-19

4th Annual Meeting (virtual) of the Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum (24 to 25 November 2020)



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1. Introduction

- IMO has been granted observer status to the Arctic Council at the 11th Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Rovaniemi, Finland (7 May 2019)
- IMO representation at the Senior Arctic Official meetings , PAME and EPPR WGs

- Circular Letter No.4204/Add.1 - COVID-19 – Implementation and enforcement of relevant IMO instruments
- Circular Letter No.4204/Add.3 - Operational considerations for managing COVID-19 cases/outbreak on board ships
- Circular Letter No.4204/Add.7 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance concerning unforeseen delays in the delivery of ships
- MSC.1/Circ.1637 on Unified interpretation of SOLAS regulation II-1/3-10 concerning the term "unforeseen delay in delivery of ships" during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic
- Circular Letter No.4204/Add.9 - Joint Statement IMO-WCO on the integrity of the global supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Circular Letter No.4204/Add.19/Rev.2 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance for flag States regarding surveys and renewals of certificates during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Circular Letter No.4204/Add.14 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Recommended framework of protocols for ensuring safe ship crew changes and travel during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

3. IMO facilitates dialogue with all parties with vested interest in safe polar shipping



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Circular Letter No.4208/Rev.1
19 October 2020

To: IMO Member States and Associate Members
United Nations and specialized agencies
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Fourth Annual Meeting (virtual) of the Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum (24 to 25 November 2020)**

IMO Circular Letter announcing the 4th Annual Meeting (virtual) of the Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum




Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

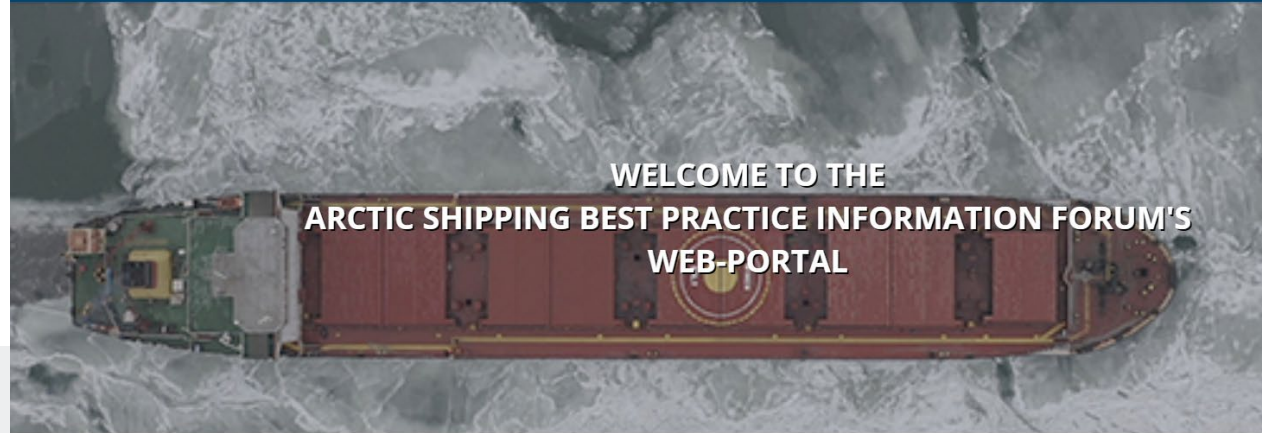
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POLAR CODE CHAPTERS: EXPLANATION AND SUBMISSIONS

- [Polar Code Part IA - Safety Measures](#)
- [Polar Code Part IB](#)
- [Polar Code Part IIA: Pollution Prevention Measures](#)
- [Polar Code Part II B](#)

SUBMIT INFORMATION TO THE WEB-PORTAL

To submit information for the web-portal, click this link and fill in the form. The information will be reviewed and added to the web-portal consequently - and the submitter contacted via e-mail.

ABOUT THE FORUM

The International Maritime Organization's adoption of the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code) prompted the Arctic Council's Working Group on the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) to establish the **Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum (Forum)**. The aim of the Forum is to raise awareness of the Polar Code amongst all those involved in or potentially affected by Arctic marine operations and to facilitate the exchange of information and best practices on Polar Code implementation among Forum participants.

CONTACT

- [Contact Forum Organizers](#)

IMO INFORMATION ON THE POLAR CODE

- [IMO Polar Code Information](#)

Forum participation is open to **Arctic States, Permanent Participants, and Arctic Council Observers** as well as any widely-recognized professional organization dedicated to improving safe and environmentally sound marine operations in the Arctic as demonstrated by expertise and experience in Arctic shipping and/or related issues.

4. INFORMATION LINK: IMO and PAME

Shipping in polar waters

[Home](#) → [Media Centre](#) → [HotTopics](#) → Shipping in polar waters



www.imo.org

International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code)



IMO's International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code) is mandatory under both the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). The Polar Code covers the full range of design, construction, equipment, operational, training, search and rescue and environmental protection matters relevant to ships operating in the inhospitable waters surrounding the two poles. The Polar Code [entered into force](#) on 1 January 2017.



[IMO in the polar environment:
The Polar Code explained](#)



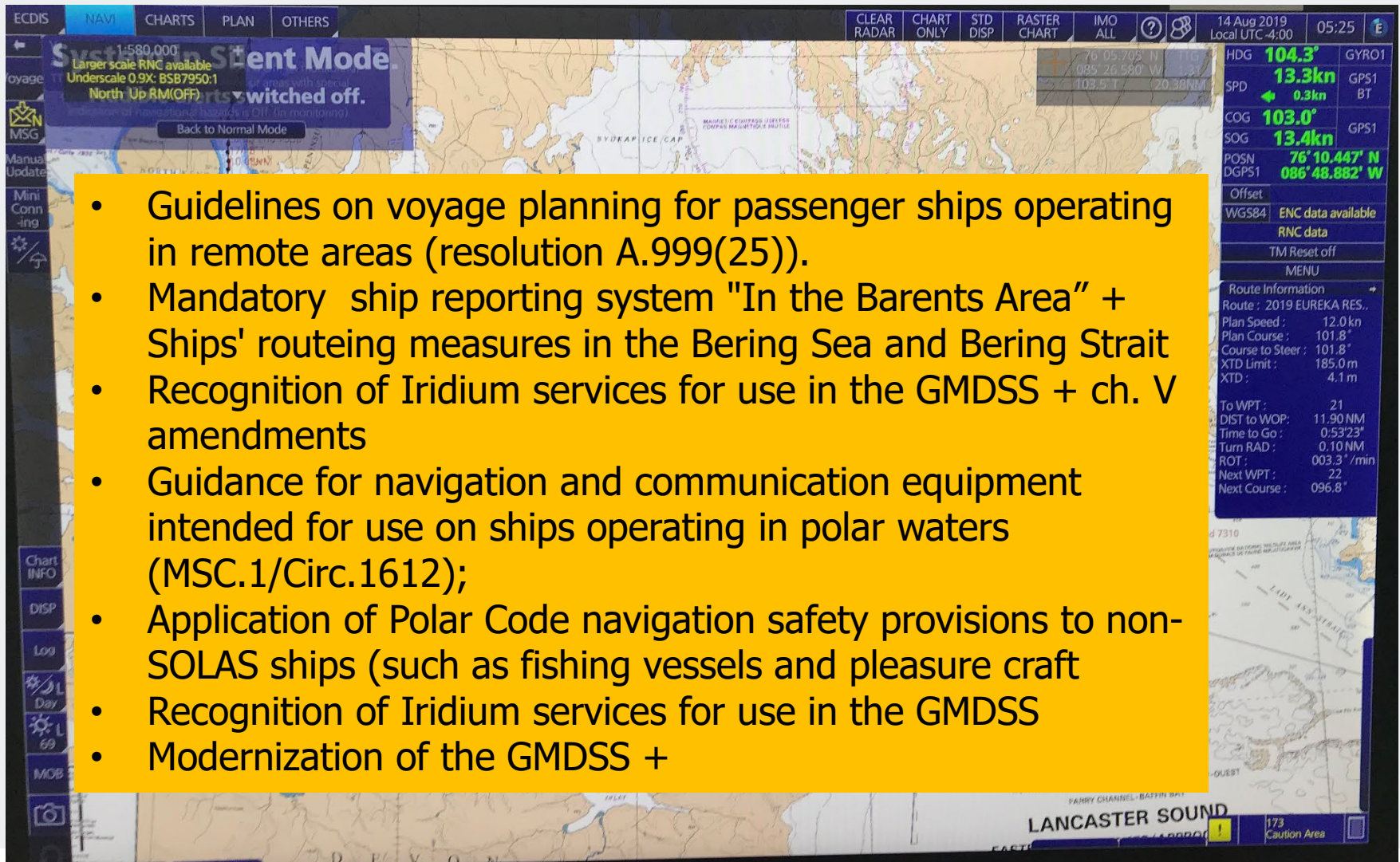
[IMO in the polar environment:
Search and Rescue](#)

5. Recent developments at IMO on environmental protection measures applicable to ships operating in Arctic waters



HFO as fuel by ships in Arctic waters

5. Current work at IMO on safety measures for ships operating in polar waters



The screenshot shows an ECDIS interface with a map of the Arctic region. A yellow text box is overlaid on the map, containing a list of IMO work items. The interface includes a top menu bar with 'NAVI', 'CHARTS', 'PLAN', and 'OTHERS'. A right-hand panel displays various navigation parameters such as HDG, SPD, COG, SOG, and POSN. A bottom panel shows 'Route Information' for a 2019 EUREKA RES. route.

- Guidelines on voyage planning for passenger ships operating in remote areas (resolution A.999(25)).
- Mandatory ship reporting system "In the Barents Area" + Ships' routing measures in the Bering Sea and Bering Strait
- Recognition of Iridium services for use in the GMDSS + ch. V amendments
- Guidance for navigation and communication equipment intended for use on ships operating in polar waters (MSC.1/Circ.1612);
- Application of Polar Code navigation safety provisions to non-SOLAS ships (such as fishing vessels and pleasure craft
- Recognition of Iridium services for use in the GMDSS
- Modernization of the GMDSS +

5. Current work at IMO on safety measures for ships operating in polar waters

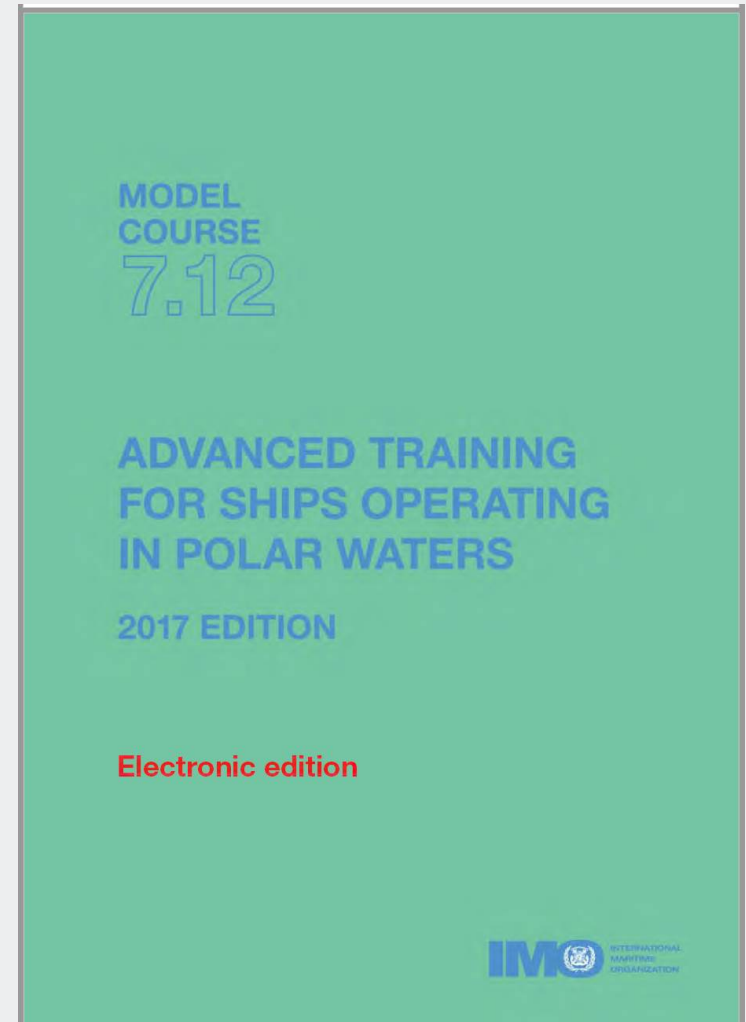
Interim guidelines on life-saving appliances and arrangements for ships operating in polar waters (MSC.1/Circ.1614) on 26 June 2019

Consideration for the determination of the maximum expected time of rescue



5. Current work at IMO on safety measures for ships operating in polar waters

Training in accordance with the IMO model courses “Basic and Advanced training for ships operating in polar waters”



5. Current work at IMO on safety measures for ships operating in polar waters

Safety measures for non-SOLAS ships operating in polar waters



5. Conclusion



CONCLUSION

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