

Action Required: IR Commission members are invited to note the relevant outcomes of MSC 110.

1. Progress with non-mandatory Code for Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS)

The Committee advanced the development of a non-mandatory Code for Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS), aimed at providing a global regulatory framework for the safe, secure, and environmentally sound operation of autonomous ships.

Revised roadmap

The Committee agreed to a revised road map for development of the Code, to include the following indicative target dates:

- **MSC 111 (May 2026):** Finalization and adoption of the non-mandatory MASS Code
- **MSC 112 (December 2026):** Development of a framework for the Experience-Building Phase (EBP)
- **By 1 July 2030:** Adoption of the mandatory MASS Code, for entry into force on 1 Jan 2032.

The Committee re-established the MASS Intersessional Working Group, scheduled to meet from 29 September to 3 October 2025, to focus on finalizing Chapter 15 (Human element) together with other relevant chapters, and to report back to MSC 111.

2. Cyber risk management - proposals invited for new output

The Committee agreed that a non-mandatory cybersecurity Code -international organizations to submit proposals for a new output in this regard to MSC 111. The Committee noted that any cybersecurity requirements should be goal-based and include risk management.

3. Using maritime information-sharing centres to enhance maritime security

The Committee adopted a resolution on *Encouragement of maritime information-sharing through the use of national and regional maritime information-sharing centres to enhance maritime safety and security*. The resolution seeks to address the threat of organized crime by encouraging the sharing of relevant information and data on maritime safety and security, illicit activities in the maritime sector, environmental incidents, and search and rescue situations, via national and regional maritime information-sharing centres.

4. Piracy and armed robbery against ships

The Committee reviewed the latest update on piracy and armed robbery against ships. Reports for 2024 show a slight global decrease in the number of cases, with 146 incidents recorded (both attempted and actual) compared to 150 in 2023 - a 3% drop.

The most affected areas in 2024 were: Straits of Malacca and Singapore (91 incidents); Indian Ocean (19); West Africa (17); South China Sea (10); Arabian Sea (7); South America (Caribbean) (1) and South America (Atlantic) (1). Notably, incidents in the Gulf of Guinea (West Africa) fell by 5 compared to 2023 - a reduction of about 23%.

The Committee urged Member States to continue reporting piracy and armed robbery incidents to the Secretariat and to regularly update the Questionnaire on port and coastal State requirements for privately contracted armed security personnel (PCASP) on board ships. The Committee was informed of the new consolidated version of the Best Management Practices (BMP) for Maritime Security issued in April 2025, which replaces the previous Global BMP, BMP5 and BMP West Africa. The Committee agreed to revise MSC.1/Circ. 1601 on *Revised industry counter piracy guidance*, to reflect the updated BMP.

5. Reports of Sub-Committees

Sub-Committee on navigation, communications and search and rescue (NCSR 12, urgent matters)

Introduction of the VHF Data Exchange System

The Committee approved draft amendments to SOLAS chapter V and its appendix to introduce the VHF Data Exchange System (VDES) as an alternative to the Automatic Identification System (AIS) for shipborne navigation. These amendments will be submitted with a view to adoption by MSC 111, along with consequential amendments to other instruments. The Committee approved the following draft MSC resolutions, with a view to adoption at MSC 111:

- draft MSC resolution on Introduction of VHF data exchange system (VDES) into the IMO regulatory framework
- draft MSC resolution on Performance standards for shipborne VHF data exchange system (VDES).

Additionally, the Committee agreed on Guidelines for the operational use of shipborne VHF data exchange system (VDES), for approval at MSC 111.

Dissemination of MSI and SAR related information

The Committee approved the following provision, to be submitted to the next MSC session (MSC 111) for adoption:

- draft amendments to SOLAS regulations IV/5, V/4 and V/5 to clearly state the requirement for dissemination of maritime safety information and SAR-related (search and rescue) information through all operational recognized mobile satellite services.
- draft resolution MSC.509(105)/Rev.2 on *Provision of Radio Services for the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)*, adding additional criteria for the provision of an international enhanced group call service in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS).

Standards of Training and Certification of Watchkeepers (STCW) Code

The Committee noted that phase 1 of the comprehensive review of the 1978 STCW Convention and Code (identifying gaps in the STCW Convention and Code) had been completed. It endorsed a revised road map proposed by the Secretariat for phase 2 (developing amendments to address those gaps) to expedite the completion of the comprehensive review, and instructed the HTW Sub-Committee to organize phase 2 accordingly.