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MSC.1/Circ.1639
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THE GUIDELINES ON CYBER SECURITY ONBOARD SHIPS

1 The Facilitation Committee at its forty-first session (4 to 7 April 2017), and the Maritime Safety Committee at its ninety-eighth session (7 to 16 June 2017), in approving *Guidelines on maritime cyber risk management* (MSC-FAL.1/Circ.3), identified cyber risk management as critical to the safety and security of shipping and protection of the marine environment, and gave high-level guidance on cyber risk management referencing the latest version of *The Guidelines on cyber security onboard ships*, jointly developed by a number of industry associations.

2 Resolution MSC.428(98) on *Maritime cyber risk management in safety management systems* furthermore affirmed that an approved Safety Management System (SMS) should take into account cyber risk management in accordance with the objectives and functional requirements of the ISM Code, encouraged Administrations to ensure that cyber risks are appropriately addressed in SMS not later than the first annual verification of the company's Document of Compliance after 1 January 2021, acknowledged necessary precautions that could be needed to preserve the confidentiality of certain aspects of cyber risk management, and finally requested Member States to bring the resolution to the attention of all stakeholders.

3 At its 103rd session, the Maritime Safety Committee was informed that to stay abreast with technical developments and recent experience in the field of cybersecurity, and in line with IMO guidelines and decisions, the industry associations behind *The Guidelines on cyber security onboard ships* had, on 23 December 2020, published a fourth version of the Guidelines, available through the IMO website (www.imo.org) at the following address: <https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Security/Pages/Cyber-security.aspx>

4 Member States are invited to take into account the guidance provided in version four of *The Guidelines on cyber security onboard ships*, and advise relevant stakeholders including shipowners, -operators, and -managers to consider, as appropriate, these Guidelines when addressing cyber risks on ships, in accordance with the objectives and functional requirements of the ISM Code, as encouraged by resolution MSC.428(98).