



香 港 商 船 資 訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Amendments to the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code)

To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters, Classification Societies and Shipbuilders

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to promulgate IMO resolution MSC.538(107) and to advise the parties concerned of the amendments to Part I-A and Part I-B of the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code) which will enter into force on 1 January 2026.

1. The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) at its 107th session adopted the resolution MSC.538(107) on 8 June 2023 to amend the Polar Code to mandate navigation and voyage planning requirements for certain non-SOLAS ships operating in polar waters. The amendments will enter into force on 1 January 2026.
2. The amendments to Polar Code will be applicable to the following types of non-SOLAS ships on all voyages within polar waters:
 - (a) fishing vessels of 24 meters in length overall and above;
 - (b) pleasure yachts of 300 gross tonnage and upwards not engaged in trade; and
 - (c) cargo ships of 300 gross tonnage and upwards but below 500 gross tonnage.
3. The details of IMO resolution MSC.538(107) can be found on the website of Marine Department (<https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html>) as attachment to this Note.
4. Shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, ship masters, classification societies and shipbuilders of Hong Kong registered ships are reminded to note the above.

Marine Department
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