



Guidance on the Merchant Shipping (Safety of Navigation) Regulations 2019

Notice to all Insert Audience eg, Shipowners, Masters, shipbuilders, seafarers

This Notice should be read in conjunction with Merchant Shipping (Safety of Navigation) Regulations 2019, SI 2019/XXXX

Summary

This MGN provides guidance and clarification on the Merchant Shipping (Safety of Navigation) Regulations 2019, SI 2019/XXXX ("the 2019 Regulations"), which implement Chapter V of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS) in its most recently amended form into UK law.

Future amendments to the Chapter will be incorporated into UK law by way of ambulatory reference. The 2019 Regulations revoke the Merchant Shipping (Safety of Navigation) Regulations 2002 (SI 2002/1473).

This MGN replaces the existing guidance on GOV.UK on compliance with SOLAS Chapter V and the 2002 Regulations.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Merchant Shipping (Safety of Navigation) Regulations 2019 implement Chapter V of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS) and all the outstanding amending Resolutions to the Chapter to date.
- 1.2 The Chapter focusses on measures which improve safety of navigation, to reduce the risk of accidents occurring at sea, in particular, in the areas of the carriage and use of equipment to assist in safe navigation, the receipt of vital safety information and communications, including emergency communications and signals.
- 1.3 The 2019 Regulations use ambulatory reference to refer the reader to obligations contained in Chapter V of SOLAS itself, rather than transposing them into UK law. This will make definitive forms of the mandatory text available to shipowners and other interested parties at a much earlier stage than the traditional transposition approach would have done.
- 1.4 However, it is recognised that in some cases the text of international instruments does not provide sufficient clarity for the requirements to be fully understood and implemented



domestically. This includes, for example, where an international obligation provides that a shipowner or shipbuilder does something to the satisfaction of the Administration. This MGN, therefore, at Annex A, provides additional guidance and clarification to assist the reader with compliance with the international obligations.

1.5 Certain aspects of the regime contained in the 2019 Regulations will not be altered by amendments coming into force by way of ambulatory reference. Examples include powers to grant exemptions and equivalences, and provisions for offences/ penalties for non-compliance.

1.6 The Merchant Shipping (Safety of Navigation) Regulations 2002 (SI 2002/1473) are revoked by the 2019 Regulations.

2. Supplementary Guidance

2.1 Additional Annexes are provided with this MGN by way of supplementary guidance on areas associated with SOLAS Chapter V. These are:

Annex A – Guidance on aspects of SOLAS Chapter V where additional clarification is required to assist with compliance with the international Convention text.

Annex B – Table of Requirements for Ships - an application overview. This is to assist the reader with the application of the Regulations and SOLAS Chapter V;

Annex C - Guidance on Nautical Charts and publications;

Annex D – Guidance on Magnetic Compasses;

Annex E – Guidance on Radar Reflectors.

2.2 This MGN replaces online guidance previously provided by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) on SOLAS Chapter V.

More Information

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See separate file entitled Annexes A to E to MGN on Safety of Navigation

