

This Statutory Instrument has been made partly in consequence of a defect in SI 2025/278 and is being issued free of charge to all known recipients of that Statutory Instrument.

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2027 No. 0000

MERCHANT SHIPPING

SAFETY

**The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Medical Stores)
(Amendment) and Light Dues (Amendment) Regulations 2027**

Made

Laid before Parliament

Coming into force

1st April 2027

The Secretary of State makes these in exercise of the powers conferred by section 85(1)(a) and (b), (3) and (5) to (7) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995⁽¹⁾ and section 259 of the Civil Partnerships Act 2004⁽²⁾.

The Secretary of State has consulted such persons in the United Kingdom as the Secretary of State considers will be affected by the exercise of powers in this instrument in accordance with section 86(4) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995.

These Regulations are made with the consent of the Treasury in so far as is required under section 302(1) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995.

Citation, commencement and extent

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Medical Stores) (Amendment) and Light Dues (Amendment) Regulations 2027 and come into force on 1st April 2027.

(2) These Regulations extend to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Amendment of the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Medical Stores) Regulations 1995

2.—(1) The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Medical Stores) Regulations 1995⁽³⁾ are amended as follows.

(2) In regulation 1 (citation, commencement, revocation and interpretation)—

- (a) in the definition of “dangerous substances”, for “Annex 4 of the Merchant Shipping Notice 1768” substitute “Annex 5 of the Merchant Shipping Notice 1905”;
- (b) in the definition of “inland navigation”, for “Merchant Shipping Notice 1837(M) Amendment 2” substitute “Merchant Shipping Notice 1837(M) Amendment 3”;

⁽¹⁾ 1995 c. 21. Sections 85 and 86 were amended by the Merchant Shipping and Maritime Security Act 1997 (c.28), sections 8 and 29(2) and schedule 7. There are other amendments but none is relevant.

⁽²⁾ 2004 c. 33.

⁽³⁾ S.I. 1995/1802 as amended by 1996/2821 and 2018/1202.

(c) in the appropriate places insert the following definitions—

““remote operation centre” means any location other than a remotely operated unmanned vessel from which a remotely operated unmanned vessel is operated”;

““remotely operated unmanned vessels” means small vessels that—

(a) are operated from a remote operation centre, and

(b) are not carrying any person at the time that they are operated”; and

““small vessel” means a vessel of less than 24 metres in load line length or, in the case of a vessel the keel of which was laid or which was at a similar stage of construction before 21 July 1968, less than 150 tons;”.

(3) In regulation 3 (application), after sub-paragraph (c) delete the full stop and insert— “,” and after (c) insert — “(d) remotely operated unmanned vessels”.

(4) In regulation 4 (carriage of medical stores), for “1768” in each place it appears substitute “1905”.

(5) In regulation 6 (standards of medical stores), for “1768” substitute “1905”.

(6) In regulation 7 (packaging and labelling of containers), for “1768” in each place it appears substitute “1905”.

(7) In regulation 8 (storage of medicines)—

(a) in paragraph (1), for “1768” substitute “1905”; and

(b) in paragraph (2), for “Ship Captain’s Medical Guide” substitute “Merchant Shipping Notice 1905”.

(8) In regulation 9 (replenishment of dated medicines), for “1768” substitute “1905”.

(9) In regulation 10 (carriage of guides), for “1768” substitute “1905”.

(10) After regulation 11 (inspection of medicines and medical stores) insert—

“Exemptions

11A—(1) Subject to paragraph (2) the Secretary of State may exempt a ship from carrying any item included with the specifications for medical stores referred to in regulation 4.

(2) The Secretary of State shall not grant any such exemption unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that the health and safety of the crew or other person on the ship would not be prejudiced in consequence of it.

(3) An exemption—

(a) may be granted subject to such requirements as the Secretary of State thinks fit; and

(b) shall be for a maximum period of five years.

(4) An exemption granted under paragraph (1) may, on the giving of reasonable notice, be altered or cancelled.

(5) An exemption granted under paragraph (1), or an alteration or cancellation under paragraph (4), must —

(a) be in writing;

(b) specify the date on which it takes effect;

(c) specify such requirements, if any, on which it is given; and

(d) in the case of an exemption or an alteration, specify for how long it is to apply.

(6) The requirement that an exemption granted under paragraph (1), or an alteration or cancellation under paragraph (4), be in writing is satisfied where the text of the exemption, alteration or cancellation is—

- (a) transmitted by electronic means;
- (b) received in legible form; and
- (c) capable of being used for subsequent reference.

(7) Where an exemption is granted subject to requirements under paragraph (3)(a), the exemption ceases to have effect if those requirements are not complied with.”

Amendment of the Merchant Shipping (Fees) Regulations 2018

3.—(1) The Merchant Shipping (Fees) Regulations 2018(4) are amended as follows.

(2) In the table in paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 (fees under the Merchant Shipping Act 1995), in section A (CREW), in the entry for the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Medical Stores) Regulations 1995, in the third column, after ”2026/260” insert ”2027/xxx”.

Amendment of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Amendments to Subordinate Legislation) Order 2005

4.—(1) The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Amendments to Subordinate Legislation) Order 2005(5) is amended as follows.

(2) In Schedule 15 (Amendments to subordinate legislation relating to merchant shipping), in the table, in columns 1 and 2, omit the entry relating to the Merchant Shipping (Light Dues) Regulations 1997(6).

Amendment of the Merchant Shipping (Light Dues) Regulations 2025

5.—(1) The Merchant Shipping (Light Dues) Regulations 2025(7) are amended as follows.

(2) In Schedule 2 (revocations), in the table, in columns 1 to 3, omit the entry relating to the Civil Partnership Act (Amendments to Subordinate Legislation) Order 2005.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Transport

date

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Transport

We consent to the making of these Regulations

Names
Two of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty’s Treasury
HM Treasury

(4) S.I. 2018/1104, relevant amending instruments are 1996/2821, 2025/1103 and 2026/260.

(5) S.I. 2005/2114. S.I. 2025/278 purported to amend S.I. 2005/2114 but S.I. 2025/278 did not cite the powers needed to make the amendment.

(6) 1997/562, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

(7) S.I. 2025/278, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the)

These Regulations amend the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Medical Stores) Regulations 1995 (S.I.1995/1802) (“the 1995 Regulations”). These Regulations come into force on 01 April 2027.

The Regulations update the 1995 Regulations in various places so that references to Merchant Shipping Notice (MSN) 1768 are replaced with references to the more recent MSN 1905.

These Regulations also insert an exemption provision into the 1995 Regulations. New regulation 11A allows the Secretary of State to issue an exemption to a ship from carrying any item included in regulation 4 so long as not carrying the item would not worsen the protection of the health and safety of any person on board.

The Regulations also exclude remotely operated unmanned vessels from the application of the 1995 Regulations.

The Regulations make a consequential amendment to the Merchant Shipping (Fees) Regulations (S.I. 2018/1104).

Regulation 4 of these Regulations also makes a minor unrelated amendment to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Amendments to Subordinate Legislation) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2114) which the Merchant Shipping (Light Dues) Regulations 2025 (S.I. 2025/278) had previously purported to make but for which the necessary enabling powers had not been cited. Regulation 5 removes the previous purported amendment from the latter regulations.

A full impact assessment has not been produced in respect of these Regulations as no significant impact on the private, voluntary or public sector is foreseen as a result of these Regulations. An Explanatory Memorandum and a de minimis assessment have been prepared and published alongside these Regulations at www.legislation.gov.uk.