## Date: 1 November 2026

# DMR/RN/2026/09 – Issue of DSA02-DMR Defence Maritime Regulations 2027 edition

**Implementation Date: 1 January 2027**

**Review Date: 1 January 2028**

### Summary

1. The purpose of this DMR Notice is to provide the Defence Maritime Domain with notice of the issue of DSA02-DMR – Defence Maritime Regulations for Health Safety and Environmental Protection 2027 Edition. Through the DMR Regulations Review Council (RRC), these regulations have been reviewed and changes agreed. The 2027 edition takes effect on 1 January 2027. Changes that have been made are captured below.

2. Also, this notice serves to inform that the DSA03 Regulatory Terms and Definitions (RT&D) document and this document will be published on the same website(s) as the DSA02 DMR regulations.

### Introduction

3. To meet the requirements of the DSA Charter and the Secretary of State's (SofS) Policy Statements for Health and Safety and Environmental Protection, DMR provides regulation of MOD maritime activities. These regulations are reviewed annually.

4. The aim, through publishing the DSA02-Defence Maritime Regulations, is to aid the domain to meet the requirements of the SofS's direction in their Policy Statement.

5. A Regulations Review Council (RRC), made up of key representatives from across the Defence maritime domain, review the regulatory requirements and agree the regulation set.

### Regulatory Changes

6. The Compliance Matrix and the RT&D documents have been updated to incorporate the amendments published in the regulations book, along with changes identified through the rolling regulations review process.

7. All changes to the regulations have been approved by the DMR Head and where appropriate all changes which require council endorsement were approved at either the RRC which took place in December 2025 or June 2026.

8. A full summary of these changes is detailed below:

## New regulations

9. Regulation 102 – Waiver from DMR Regulation, explaining the process for applying for a waiver from DMR regulation when compliance is not possible but an operational imperative exists.

10. Regulation 904 – Enforcement action reporting, where the emphasis is placed on the AP to notify other regulators when enforcement action has been imposed / implemented.

## Changes to regulation

11. In Regulation 206 wording updated to read 'The Accountable Person (AP) shall ensure that ship's Commanding Officers discharge their responsibilities in accordance with applicable legislation, Defence regulations, and the arrangements and requirements set out in the relevant Safety and Environmental Management System (SEMS)'.

12. In Regulation 207 title updated, removal of reference to 'ashore' as the new terminology is specific to Designated Person with the 'ashore' elements to it.

13. In Regulation 307 wording updated to read 'The Accountable Person (AP) shall ensure that Defence maritime activities are conducted only within the established safe and environmentally sound operating envelope, unless exceptional circumstances require operation outside that envelope in order to deliver a Defence task'.

14. In Regulation 407 wording updated to read 'The Accountable Person (AP) shall ensure that accidents and incidents (including near misses and dangerous occurrences) shall be reported (using the approved MySafety reporting tool) and investigated so that hazards and impacts are identified in a timely manner, and lessons are learned from the experience'.

15. In Regulation 502 title updated to 'Pollution Prevention, Response and Cooperation.

16. In Regulation 503 title updated to include Underwater 'Cultural' Heritage.

17. In Regulation 604 title updated from 'Certification' to 'Platform Certification'.

18. In Regulation 604 wording updated to 'MOD Shipping shall not be operated without extant certification relevant to the operation to be undertaken, that is defined as applicable on the UKDSR and is required in accordance with the certification strategy'.

19. In Regulation 611 wording updated to read 'The Accountable Person (AP) shall ensure that water and land pollution and adverse impacts on human health from Defence maritime activity are minimised and ultimately eliminated, so far as is reasonably practicable.

20. In Regulation 618 wording updated to change terminology from 'alongside' to 'berthed'.

21. In Regulation 620 wording updated to read 'The Accountable Person (AP) shall ensure that where the loss of any MOD shipping or registered equipment leads to a MOD wreck, any safety hazards or environmental impacts are reported and managed'.

22. In Regulation 701 wording updated to read 'The Accountable Person (AP) for each MOD port, harbour or marine facility, both in the UK and overseas shall ensure that management arrangements are developed, implemented and maintained in accordance with the principles of the port and Marine Facilities Safety Code'.

23. In Regulation 501, 502, 612, 615, 616, 619, wording standardised to 'The Accountable Person (AP) Shall take all Practicable steps to ensure'.

24. Wording standardised to 'The Accountable Person (AP)' in regulations 206, 207, 307, 501, 502, 503, 601, 602, 603, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 615, 616, 619, 620, 621, 704, 801, 803.

## Provenance Changes

25. The full list of Provenance Changes to the DSA02-DMR is detailed below, Additions, Updates and Removals;

### Additions:

26. Addition of Environment Act 2021 to Regulation 501.

27. Addition of Merchant Shipping (Marine Equipment) Regulation 2025 to Regulation 615.

### Updates:

28. Update to Provenance of Regulation 206 BRd 2, The King's Regulation for the Royal Navy.

29. Update to Provenance of Regulation 502 to include all MARPOL annexes.

30. Update to Provenance of Regulation 606 The Merchant Shipping (passenger Ship Construction and Survey) (Amendment) 1992 was revoked and replaced by The Merchant Shipping (Passenger Ship Constructions: Ships Classes I, II and III(A)) Regulations 1998.

31. Update to Provenance of Regulation 621 to Merchant Shipping (Polar Code) (Safety) Regulation 2025 due to revoke in 2021 legislation.

32. Updates to Provenance of Regulations 201, 309, 401, 402 and 803 to reflect the issue of two separate SofS statements one for H&S and one for EP.

33. Updates to Merchant Shipping (International Safety Management (ISM Code) Regulation 2026 in Regulations 207, 301, 302, 404, 405, 406, 602, 603, 607, 609, 901 and 902.

Removals:

34. Removal of Provenance Merchant Shipping (Diving Safety) Regulation 2002 from Regulation 101.

35. Removal of reference to HASAWA 1974 from Regulation 207, as there is no DED in place.

36. Removal of Provenance Dockyard Ports Regulations Act 1865 from Regulation 207.

37. Removal of Provenances The Control of Pollution (special waste) Regulations 1980, The Site Waste Management Plans Regulations 2008, The alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulations 2017 from Regulation 211 due to no DED being identified.

38. Removal of Provenance International convention for prevention of pollution from ships 1973 from Regulation 604.

39. Removal of Provenance The Sulphur Content of liquid Fuels (England and Wales) Regulation 2007 and devolved equivalents from Regulation 612.

40. Removal of Provenance Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships) from Regulation 612.

41. Removal of Provenance Merchant Shipping (Monitoring, Reporting and Verification of Carbon Dioxide Emissions) and Port State Control (Amendment) Regulation 2017 from Regulation 613.

42. Removal of Provenance offshore Installation (Offshore Safety Directive) Regulation 2015, from Regulations 101, 303, 304, 305, and 608.

**AMC Changes**

43. A full list of the AMC changes to the DSA02-DMR Regulations is provided below:

44. Regulation 207 AMC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6 updated due to removal of all ‘A’ in the acronym Designated Person Ashore (DPA) – to Designated Person (DP).

45. Regulation 302 AMC 3 wording updated from ‘An acceptable SEMS should set out how each of the RCS is to be applied’ to ‘The SEMS should set out how each of the RCS is to be applied’.

46. Regulation 303 AMC 3 wording updated from ‘APs should provide evidence that the SEMP defines:’ to ‘APs should provide evidence that the SEMP defines as appropriate, key elements tailored from the below list’.

47. Regulation 307 addition to AMC 6 ‘Operating outside the Safe and Environmentally sound operating envelope may be conducted for trials and testing purposes, when risks have been clearly established and mitigated and are appropriately held’.

48. Regulation 407 AMC 1 updated to include ‘and where appropriate MCA’.

49. Regulation 407 AMC 6 added ‘Where an accident or incident results in a vessel or equipment becoming a wreck (as defined in DSA03 RT&D documents) then the AP should report, as soon as reasonably practicable to the MCA (when in UK waters) or applicable flag state’.

50. Regulation 503 AMC 1.b. – 1.c. updated to read ‘reporting the discovery of a site of potential cultural heritage; and ‘Developing, Maintaining, and following operating procedures for use in the event MOD shipping activities cause damage to a site of known or suspected cultural heritage site and reporting the damage caused to the appropriate authorities.

51. Regulation 608 AMC 1.d.(4) terminology updated from ‘combat’ to ‘survivability’.

52. Regulation 803 AMC updated to reflect the issue of two separate SofS Statements.

## Acronyms and Definitions

53. A full list of the Acronyms and Definitions that have been amended to the DSA02-DMR is provided below:

a. Definition of HSE corrected to ‘Health and Safety Executive.’

b. Acronym Organisation & Arrangements ‘O&A’ added.

c. Assure and ensure re-defined.

d. Designated Person Ashore (DPA) changed to Designated Person (DP).

## Editorial and Grammatical Amendments

54. A Full list of the Editorial and Grammatical Amendments made to the DSA02-DMR is provided below, an example of a minor Grammatical change could be, correcting spelling, correcting punctuation, improving sentence structure without altering the intended meaning or purpose of the information being communicated.

55. Minor grammatical amendments were made to AMCs of Regulations 101, 209, 307, 401, 405, 601, 603, 605, 619 and 903.

56. Updates were made to the introduction section to reflect the issue of two Separate Secretary of State (SofS) Statements one for Health & Safety (H&S) and one for Environmental Protection (EP).

## Queries

57. Any observations or requests for further guidance on the content of this notice should be submitted by email to DSA-DMR-Group@mod.gov.uk.