



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 929 of 5th July 2026

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk
Reference	IGC Code

Draft amendments to the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (IGC Code)

Draft amendments to the IGC Code were approved. These amendments were supposed to be adopted by MSC 110, however, due to the number of commenting papers received, MSC 110 instructed CCC 11 to further refine the draft amendments considering such papers.

The amendments cover a variety of issues, including:

- Clarification of the application provisions because of the “one ship, one code” discussion;
- Application of finite element analysis to type C tanks;
- Carriage of CO₂ cargoes and the use of LPG, ethane and toxic cargoes as fuel;
- The causes, and effects of an ESD (Emergency Shut down); and
- Cargo tank filling limits.

To address industry concerns regarding retroactive application of the draft amendments to IGC Code, a three-date application system was agreed as detailed below. Consequently, the model form of the *International Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Liquefied Gases in Bulk* in appendix 2 of the IGC Code was also modified.

The amendments will apply to "ships constructed on or after [1 July 2028]" which means ships:

- .1 for which the building contract is placed on or after [1 July 2028]; or
- .2 in the absence of a building contract, the keels of which are laid or which are at a similar stage of construction on or after [1 January 2029]; or
- .3 the delivery of which is on or after [1 July 2032].

It was confirmed that only products listed in chapter 19 of the IGC Code should be included in the ship's International Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Liquefied Gases in Bulk and identified as cargo and/or fuel, as appropriate in the revised table."

MSC previously agreed that unified interpretations provided by MSC.1/Circ.1543, MSC.1/Circ.1559, MSC.1/Circ.1590, MSC.1/Circ.1606, MSC.1/Circ.1617, MSC.1/Circ.1625, MSC.1/Circ.1651, MSC.1/Circ.1669 and MSC.1/Circ.1679 would be superseded for new ships, with the effective date being when the draft amendments to the IGC Code enter into force (predicted 1 July 2028). They will remain in effect for existing ships constructed prior to the entry into force of the draft amendments.

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To facilitate implementation, “applicability provisions” have been developed following the principle that if an amendment requires changes in design or construction, it will be applicable to ships constructed on or after 1 July 2028. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- **Welded tank joints:** All welded joints for Type A and B independent tanks must be full-penetration in-plane butt welds, for improved structural integrity.
- **Fire safety:** Emergency fire pump capacity must now account for scenarios where main pumps supplying the water-spray system covering the superstructures and deckhouses fail.
- **Cargo manifold connections:** Additional manual valves are required alongside emergency shutdown (ESD) valves for liquid and vapor connections.
- **Use of LPG and ethane as fuel:** New provisions mandate computational fluid dynamics (CFD)-based ventilation design and gas detection placement for spaces outside cargo areas.
- **Automation and safety systems:** Integrated computer-based systems must ensure reliable communication and centralized monitoring using risk-based hazard identification.

REFERENCE:

- MSC 110

ATTACHMENTS: No.

Kindest Regards,
CONARINA Technical Office

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