



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 931 of 7th July 2026

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Use of ammonia cargo as fuel
Reference	IGC Code

Interim guidelines for use of ammonia cargo as fuel

The guidelines were developed to support the use of the IGC Code paragraph 16.9 which requires an equivalent level of safety to using natural gas when using alternative fuels. The guidelines provide fuel specific goals and functional requirements in addition to fuel specific supplementary guidance to the provisions of chapter 16 - *Use of cargo as fuel*.

Specific requirements were developed for the use of ammonia cargo as fuel:

- **Ammonia Fuel Supply Piping:** The requirements in 16.4 of the IGC Code apply to fuel piping outside the cargo area. Ammonia fuel supply piping, including double walled piping, should be colored in a distinguishable way;
- **Safe Haven:** The requirements in 17.5.5 of the IGC Code apply to cargoes requiring carriage by type 1G ships, so this concept is not applied to ammonia fuel;
- **Gas Detection:** A fixed ammonia gas detection system should be installed. Specific detection and shutdown limits have not been included, so the guidelines will not align with MSC.1/Circ.1687 - *Interim Guidelines for the Safety of Ships Using Ammonia as Fuel*.
- **Fuel plant ventilation:** Ventilation capacity, including the ventilation inlet and outlet locations, should be supported by numerical calculations, such as a computational fluid dynamics (CFD) analysis. For ammonia fuel preparation room(s), paragraph 12.1.8 of the IGC Code should apply;
- **Ammonia Release Mitigation System (ARMS):** The uncontrolled and direct release of ammonia may only occur in emergency situations so the fuel supply system should include an ARMS capable of collecting and handling ammonia releases. No specific requirements were developed for the ARMS to allow the development of new technologies, given that ARMS has not yet been developed; and
- **Spaces containing fuel consumers:** Machinery spaces containing ammonia fuel consumers should be gas-safe machinery spaces. Fuel piping should be of double wall design or ducted, and the outer boundary should be continuous and gas tight in the space.

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REFERENCE:

- IGC Code paragraph 16.9

ATTACHMENTS: No.

Kindest Regards,
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