



**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF MARITIME AFFAIRS
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF PORTS & SHIPPING**



MARINE GUIDANCE NOTE-- MGN- 002/2026

Karachi, dated the 05 June 2026

Subject: AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CODE OF SAFETY FOR SHIPS USING GASES OR OTHER LOW-FLASHPOINT FUELS (IGF CODE) — RESOLUTION MSC.551(108), IN FORCE 1 JANUARY 2026

References

- (a) SOLAS 1974, chapter II-1, part G.
- (b) Resolution MSC.391(95) — International Code of Safety for Ships using Gases or other Low-flashpoint Fuels (IGF Code), as amended.
- (c) Resolution MSC.551(108) — Amendments to the IGF Code, in force 1 January 2026.
- (d) STCW Convention, regulation V/3 and STCW Code, section A-V/3.
- (e) MMD Marine Circular No. 001/2026 (flashpoint of oil fuel).

1. Purpose

1.1 This Circular promulgates the amendments to the IGF Code adopted by resolution MSC.551(108), which entered into force on 1 January 2026, and sets out the action required of Companies operating Pakistan-flag ships using gases or other low-flashpoint fuels, and of Recognized Organizations acting on behalf of this Administration.

2. Application

- 2.1 This Circular applies to Pakistan-flag ships subject to SOLAS chapter II-1, part G, which use gases or other low-flashpoint fuels, and to Companies, designers and shipyards concerned with the construction, conversion or repair of such ships.
- 2.2 The amendments apply in full to ships constructed on or after 1 January 2026. Certain provisions apply retroactively to ships constructed before that date. The expression “ship constructed on or after 1 January 2026” is defined in the amendments and is central to determining applicability; Companies shall not assume that a ship delivered after that date is, for the purposes of these amendments, a ship “constructed on or after” it.

3. Substance of the amendments

3.1 The amendments address a range of safety matters identified through service experience with gas-fuelled ships, and correct editorial errors. They deal, inter alia, with:

- pump suction wells in fuel tanks;
- the arrangement and discharge of safety relief valves;
- fuel preparation rooms, including access, ventilation and boundary arrangements;
- structural fire protection of spaces associated with fuel storage, preparation and supply; and
- hazardous area classification and zoning, including arrangements at accesses and openings leading to hazardous areas.

3.2 Companies are directed to obtain and study the full text of resolution MSC.551(108) and not to rely upon this summary.

4. Action by Companies

- 4.1 Companies shall, in consultation with the Recognized Organization concerned, carry out a documented review of each gas-fuelled or low-flashpoint-fuelled ship in the fleet in order to identify:
 - those provisions of resolution MSC.551(108) which apply retroactively to the ship; and
 - any modification, additional arrangement or documentary amendment required in consequence.
- 4.2 Where retroactive provisions require physical modification, the Company shall submit a programme of compliance to the Recognized Organization for agreement, and shall complete the work not later than the first scheduled survey falling due after the date of this Circular unless otherwise agreed in writing by this Administration.
- 4.3 The following ship-specific documentation shall be reviewed and, where necessary, amended and re-approved:
 - the fuel handling and bunkering manual and bunkering checklists;
 - hazardous area classification drawings and the associated electrical equipment schedule;
 - gas detection, ventilation and emergency shutdown (ESD) system descriptions and test schedules;
 - fire control and safety plans;
 - the Safety Management System procedures relating to bunkering, gas freeing, inerting, purging and enclosed space entry; and
 - the training and drill matrix.
- 4.4 Companies shall verify that all seafarers assigned duties in relation to the fuel, and in particular Engineer Officers and Electro-Technical Officers, hold valid basic or advanced training certification for ships subject to the IGF Code in accordance with STCW regulation V/3, appropriate to their duties and responsibilities.

5. Action by Recognized Organizations

- 5.1 Recognized Organizations shall apply the amended IGF Code in the approval of plans and in surveys for the issue and endorsement of statutory certificates, and shall report to this Department any Pakistan-flag ship for which a retroactive requirement cannot be met within the period referred to in paragraph 4.2.
- 5.2 Any proposal for an alternative design and arrangement under SOLAS regulation II-1/55 or under the IGF Code shall be submitted to this Department for the concurrence of the Administration before approval is granted.

6. Related development — advance notice

6.1 Companies are advised that the Maritime Safety Committee, at its 111th session (May 2026), approved amendments to SOLAS chapter II-1 and to the IGF Code giving effect to the “one ship, one code” policy, confirming that the IGF Code does not apply to gas carriers and aligning the definitions of gaseous fuels and low-flashpoint fuels between SOLAS and the IGF Code. Those amendments are expected to be adopted at MSC 112 in December 2026. A separate Circular will be issued in due course.

Syed Ali Tahir Nasir
Chief Engineer & Ship Surveyor and
Chief Examiner of Engineers

Distribution

1. All Pakistan Flag Shipowners, Ship Managers and Operators.
2. All Recognized Organizations authorized by the Government of Pakistan.
3. All Maritime Training Institutes recognized by DGPS.
4. Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Department, Karachi.
5. All Departmental Surveyors and Port State Control Officers.
6. Director General Ports & Shipping (for information).
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