

GIBRALTAR MARITIME ADMINISTRATION
(Ministry of Maritime Affairs)



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Shipping Guidance Notice – 063

Digital Versions of IMO Publications

To: Ship Owners, Operators, Masters, Officers, Local Representatives

References:

- **MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.2**
- **MSC/Circ.891**
- **SOLAS Chapter V**

Background:

Digital Versions of IMO Publications

With the increasing availability and convenience of use of digital IMO publications, the Gibraltar Maritime Administration has no objections to their use in lieu of hard copies. All publications on board ships, regardless of format, should be the latest editions or duly corrected up to date. Please refer to **MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.2 IMO requirements on carriage of publications on board ships** for more details.

Masters are to ensure that the digital IMO publications are easily available for reference by ships' officers and crew.

Computers used on board for digital publications should meet the requirements of **MSC/Circ.891 Guidelines for the on-board use and application of computers.**

IMO publications may be carried on board ship in the form of electronic media such as a CD in lieu of hard copies. Acceptable publications in electronic form should be those issued by IMO, or an Administration or a body authorized by an Administration, to ensure correctness of their contents and to safeguard against illegal copying. The medium may either contain a publication or a number of publications. The media shall be treated in accordance with the document control procedures in the ship's Safety Management System (SMS), including procedures for timely update.

The use of the digital IMO publications on Gibraltar registered ships is subject to:

The ship having appropriate back up arrangements:

- i. The ship shall have not less than two independent computer systems capable of displaying the publications and up-dates. One of these systems shall be in a suitable location on the bridge.
- ii. The computer systems shall include two printers capable of printing in hard copy, in whole or in part. One of the printers shall be a colour printer.

Situations where a back-up license is no longer available on board

Where a ship no longer has an available back-up license on board (because the back-up license has been used or the respective computer crashed or was replaced), a replacement back-up license shall be obtained without delay.

Publications for Emergency use

Publications essential for emergency use shall always be available on board in the form of hard copy, even if the vessel carries digital versions. Such publications must be readily available for use in case of emergency without being restricted to a specific place and by the availability of a computer. These are, as a minimum:

- a. International Code of Signals (SOLAS V/21.1); and
- b. IAMSAR Manual Volume III (SOLAS V/21.2),
- c. Any other publication or document deemed crucial for emergency use by the company and vessel.

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Gibraltar Maritime Administration

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